



**SUN**

**1991-1992**

**OSAMU TEZUKA**

**vol. II**

# phoenix<sup>TM</sup>

SUN

PART TWO



BY OSAMU TEZUKA



Phoenix: Sun, Part 2  
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STORY AND ART BY  
OSAMU TEZUKA

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A message to our readership:

Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

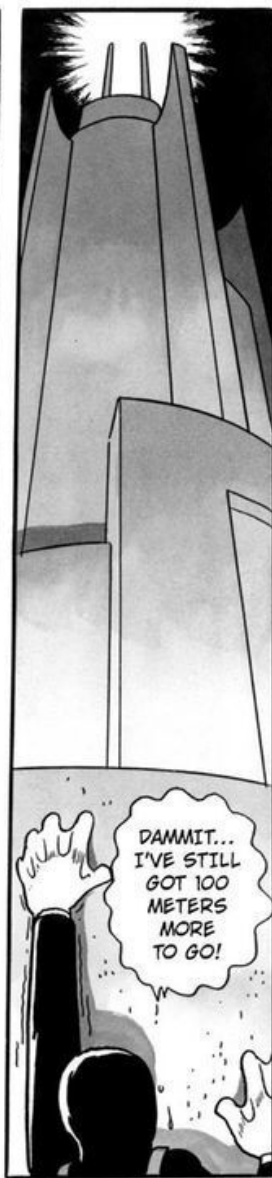
We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

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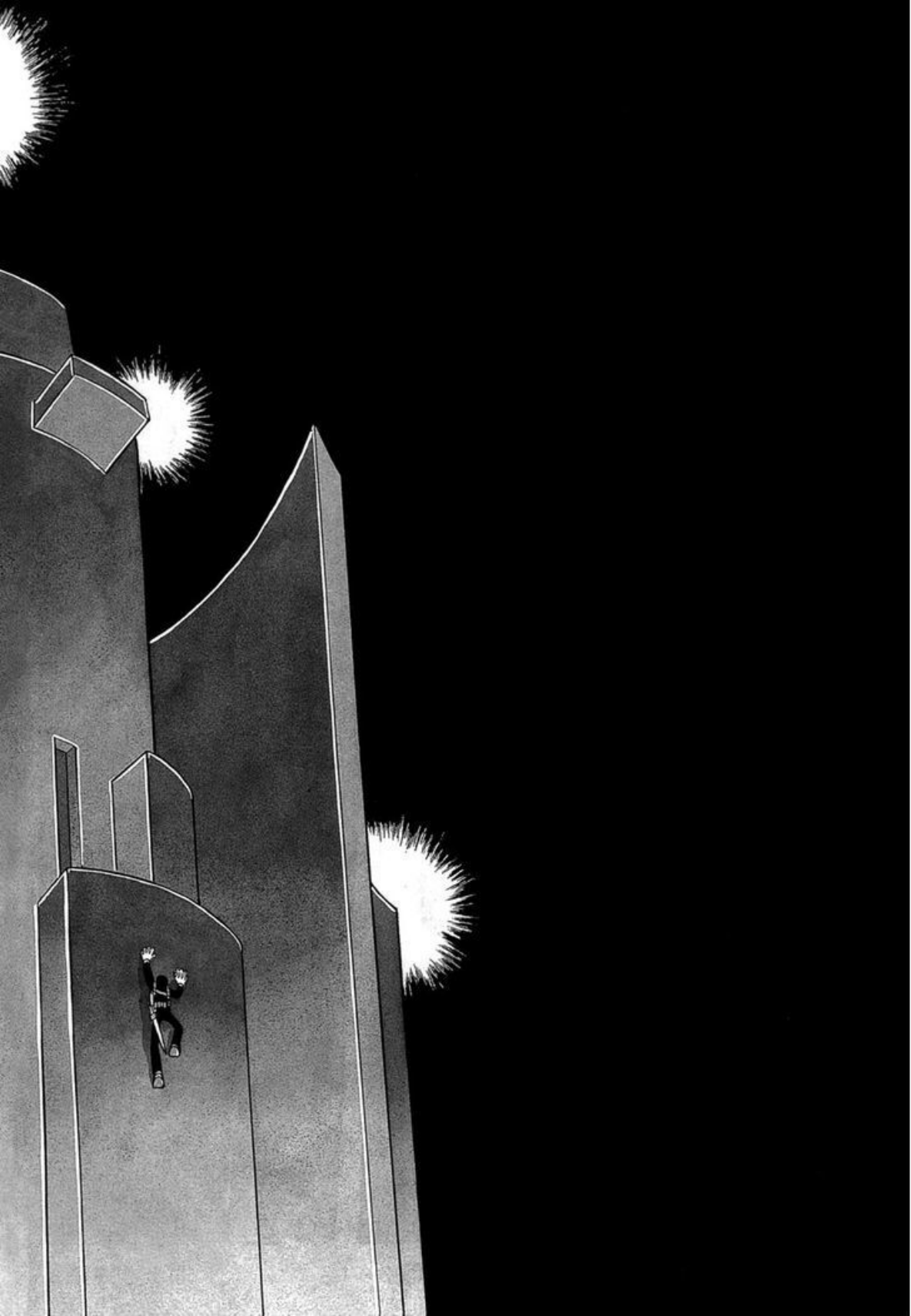


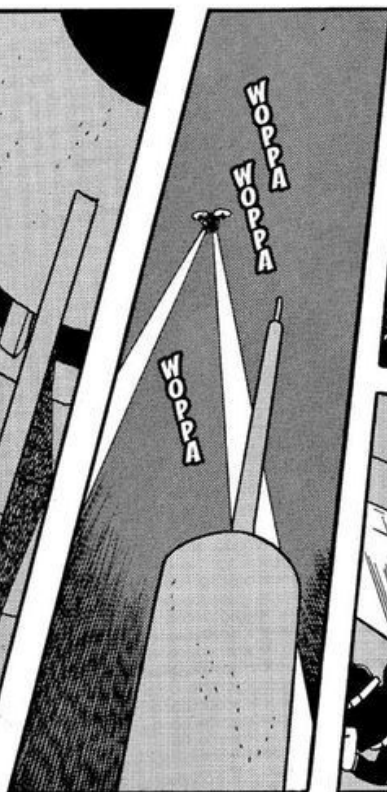
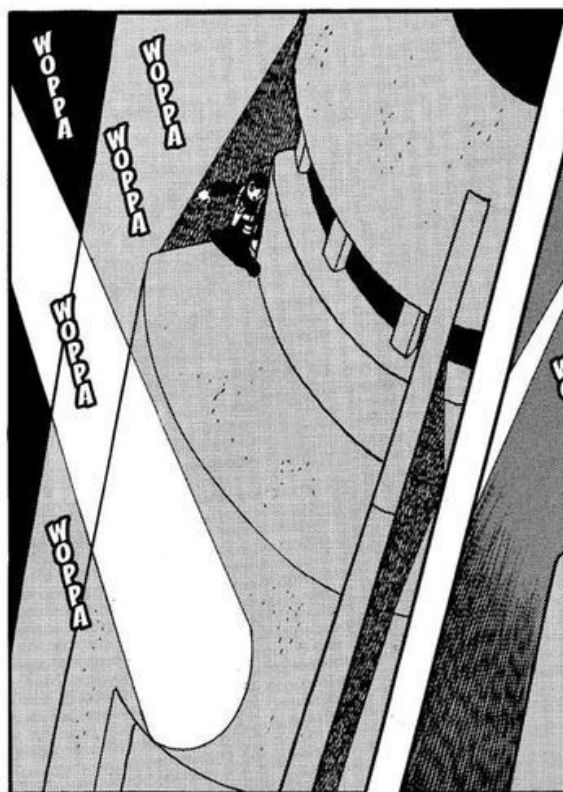
火の鳥

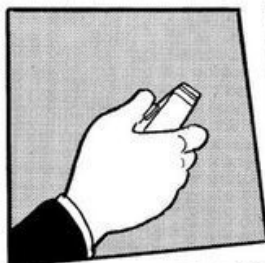
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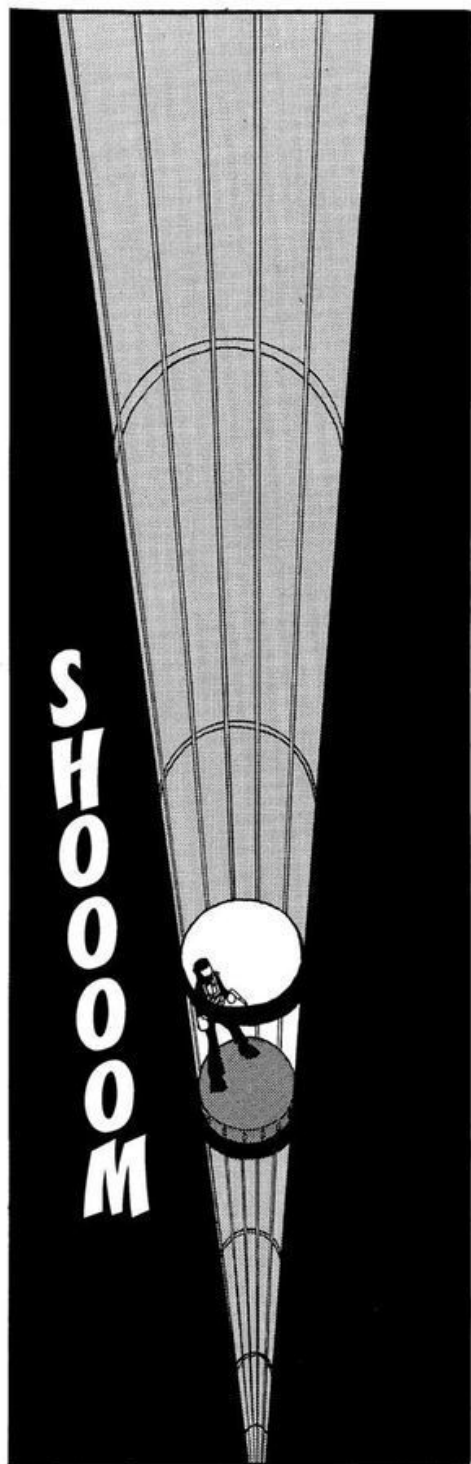
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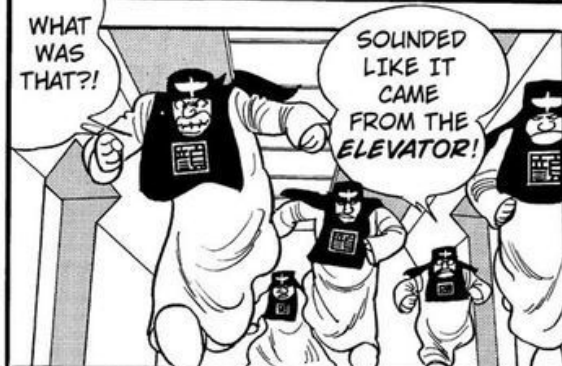






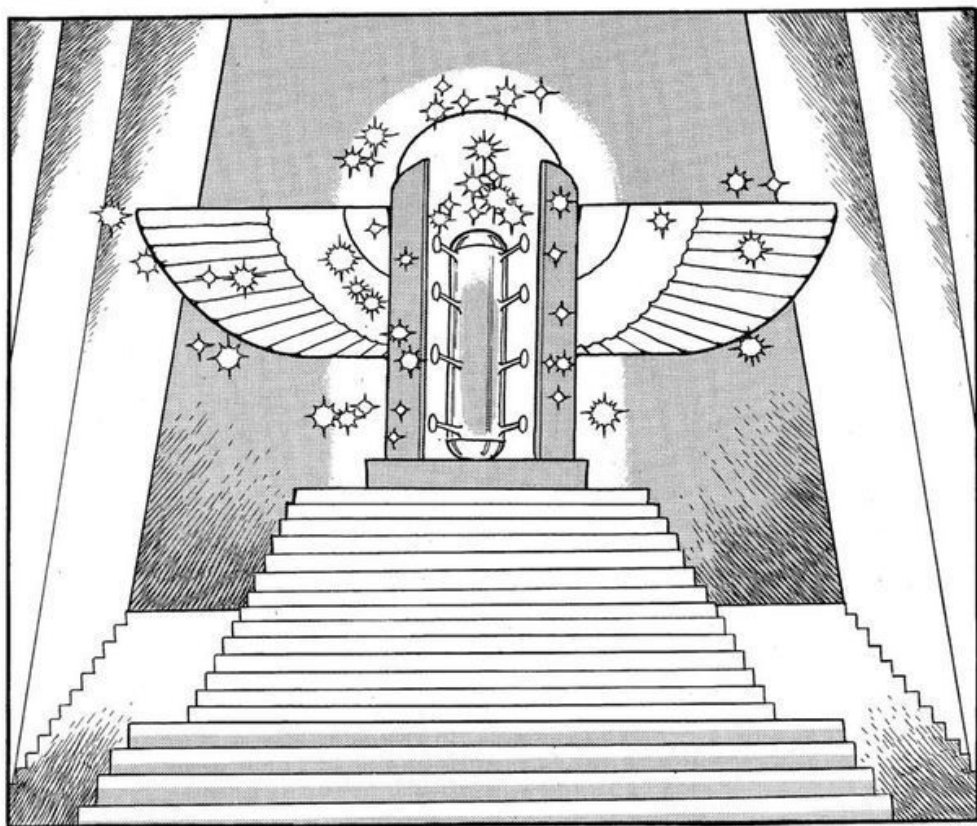
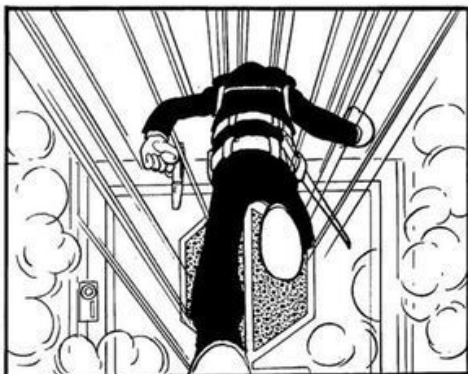


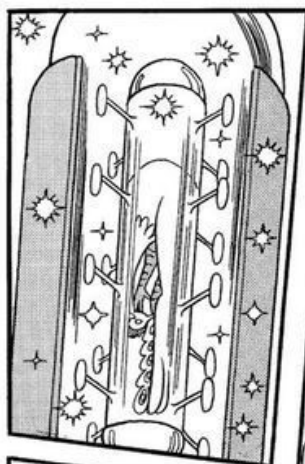


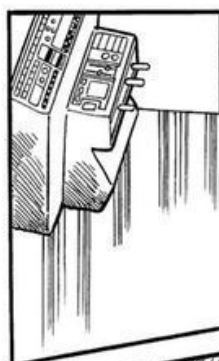
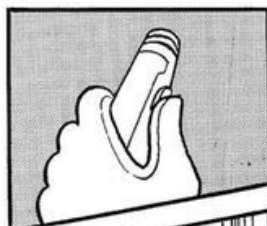




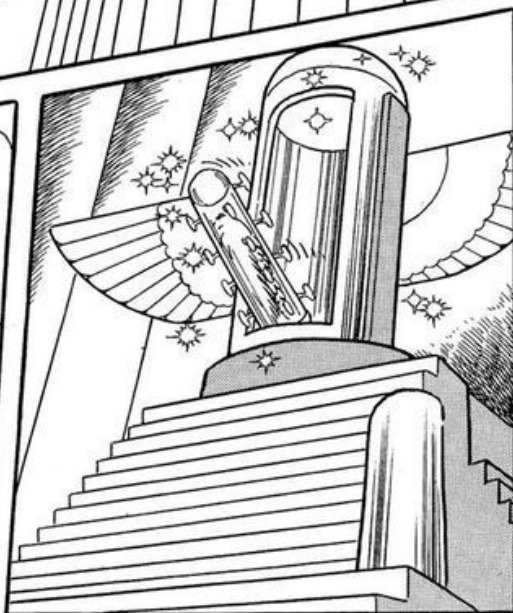


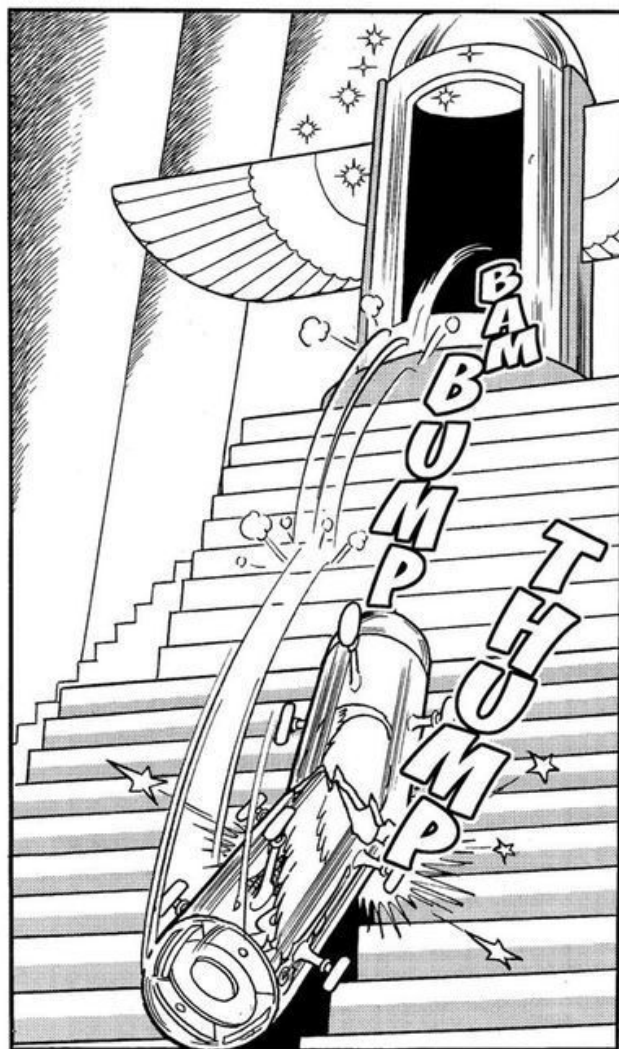




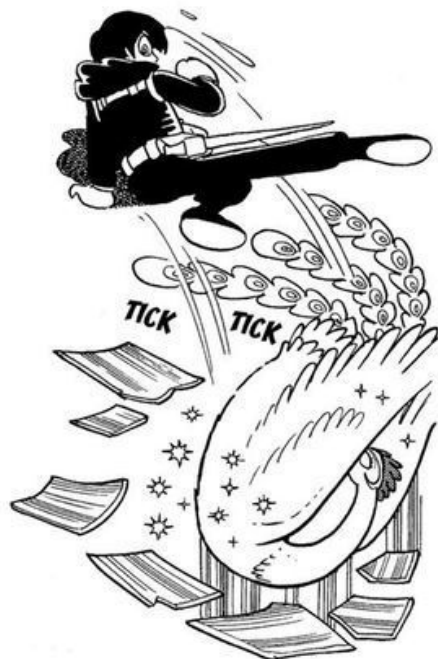
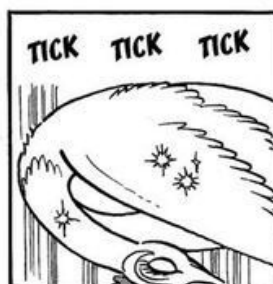


HMM...THERE ARE VENTILATION SHAFTS IN THE CEILING, SO THEY **MUST** LEAD TO THE OUTSIDE. MAYBE I CAN USE THEM TO GET THE CAPSULE OUT OF HERE.

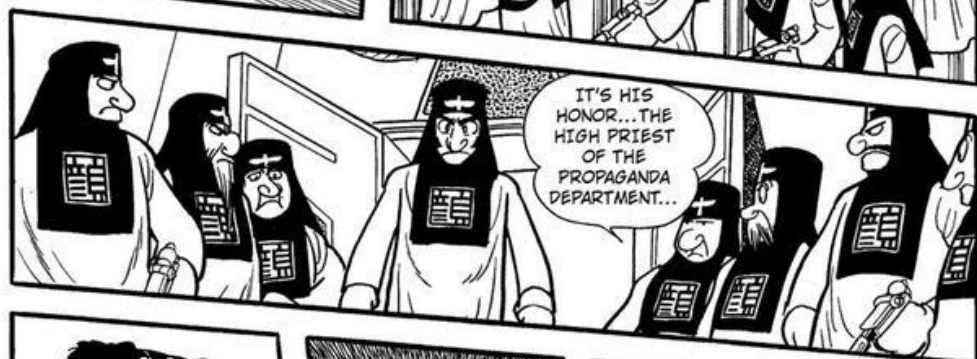
















THIS IS MY BROTHER-IN-LAW... MY WIFE'S YOUNGER BROTHER... SO HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN...



YOUR SISTER'S IN THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW, SUGURU, WITH SOME BROKEN BONES FROM AN ACCIDENT... BUT **SHE'S** THE ONE WHO TOLD ME OF YOUR PLANS TO INFILTRATE OUR CHURCH'S HEADQUARTERS...



SHE BEGGED ME TO SPARE YOUR LIFE, SO I WILL. BUT SHE ALSO ASKED ME TO BRAINWASH YOU...

...SO I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU INDOCTRINATED IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OF LIGHT. YOU'LL BE INDUCTED INTO THE CHURCH ITSELF.

YOU AND MY SISTER REALLY THINK YOU CAN BRAINWASH ME THAT EASILY...? YOU MUST BE **KIDDING!**

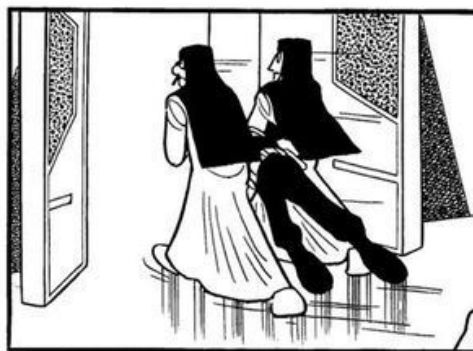


ANY SHADOW PERSON WORTH THEIR SALT WOULD RATHER **DIE** THAN HAVE THEIR SOUL FOULED BY YOUR CRAZY LIGHT RELIGION!



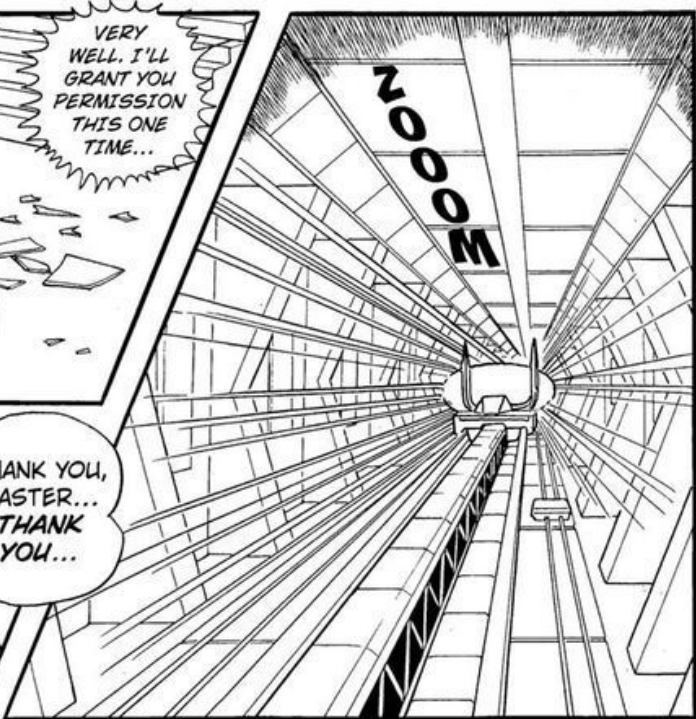
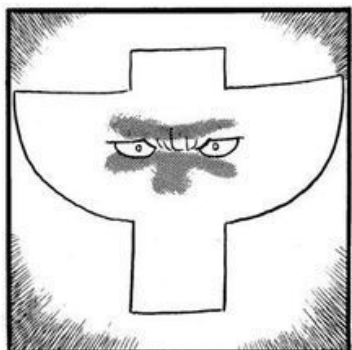
LISTEN, SUGURU... YOU HAVE ALREADY KILLED SEVERAL OF MY COMPATRIOTS...

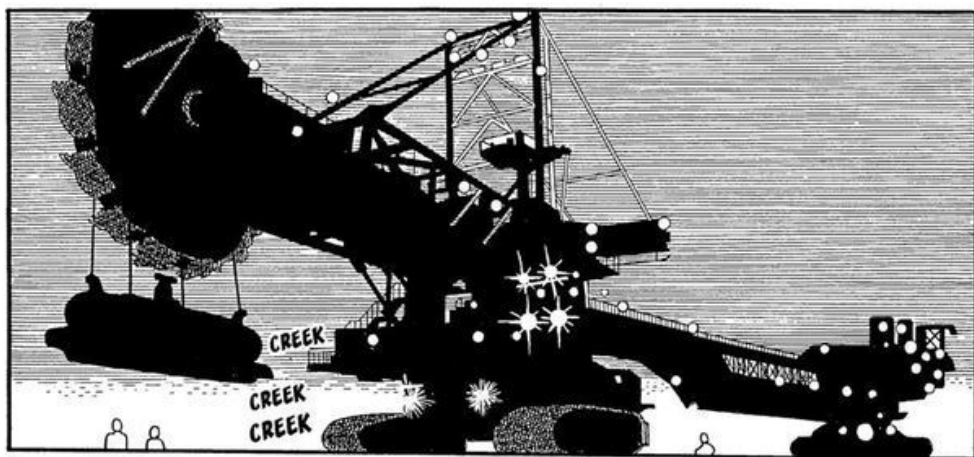
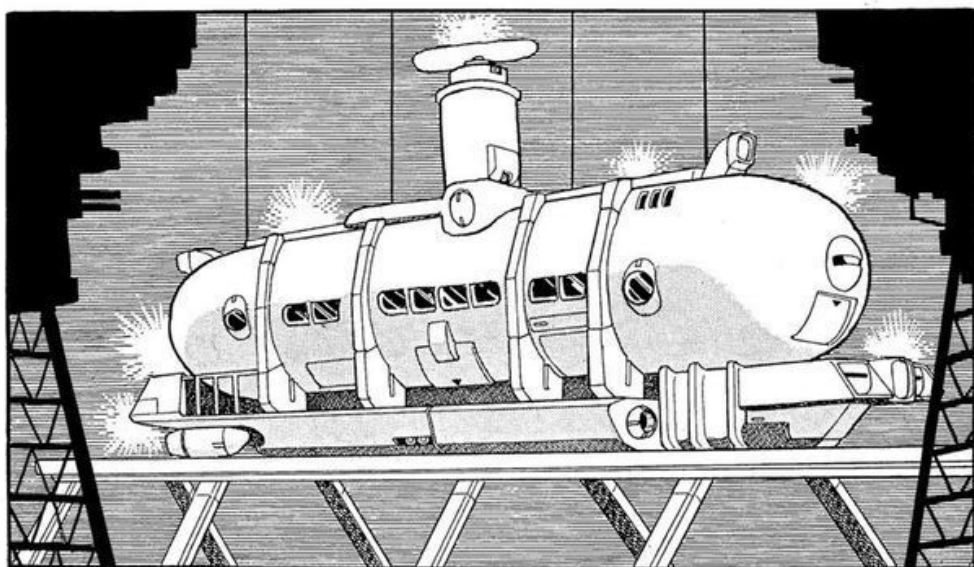
THAT ALONE IS DESERVING OF THE **DEATH PENALTY**, YET I'M TRYING TO **SPARE** YOUR LIFE...

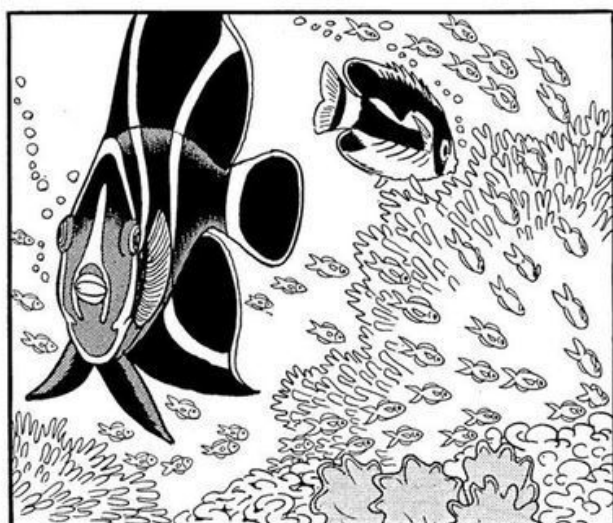
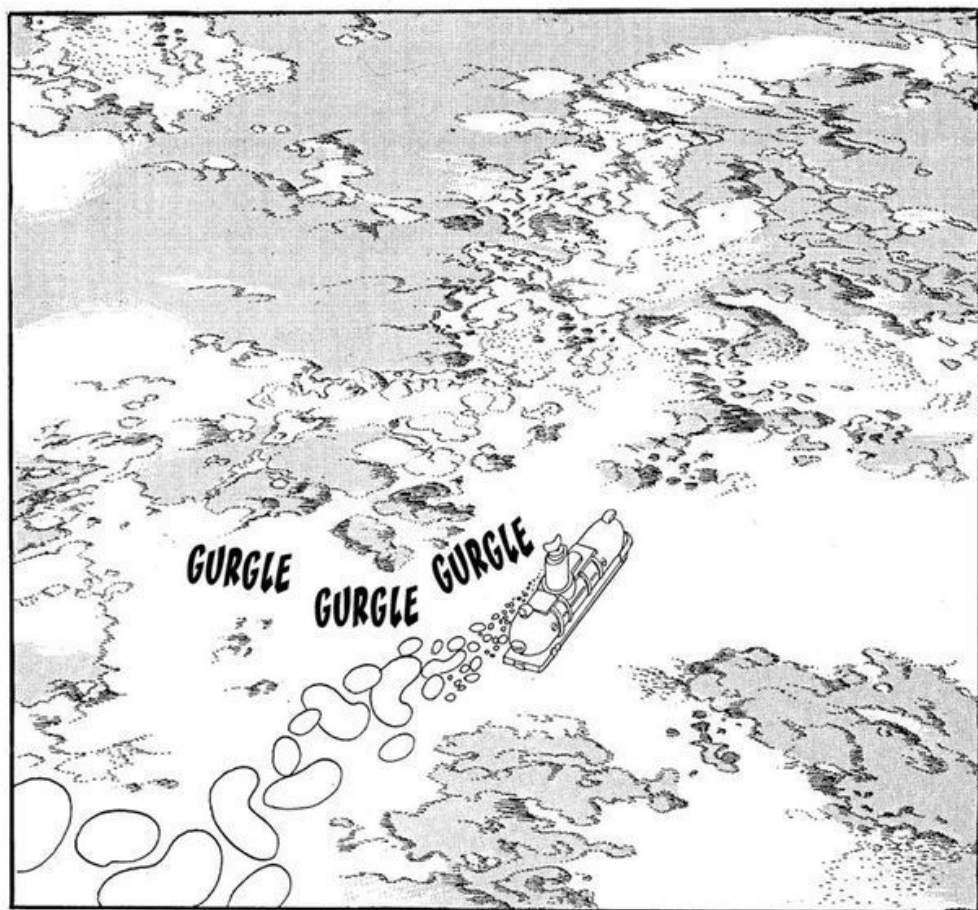


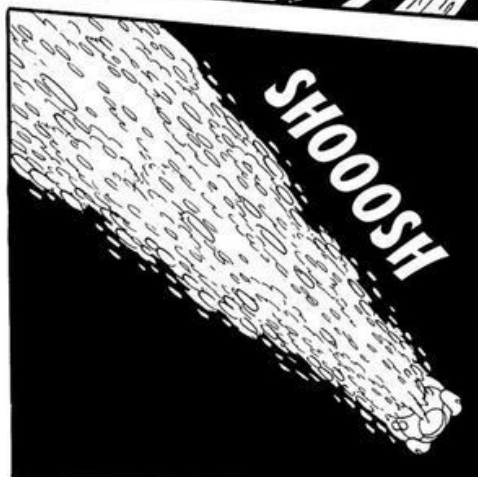
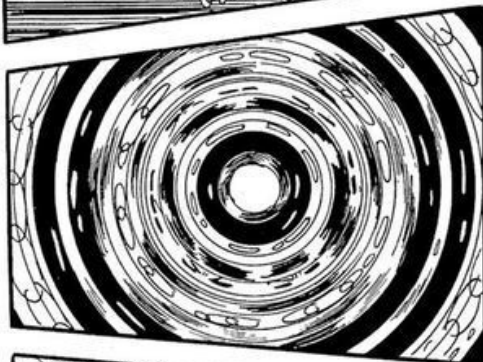
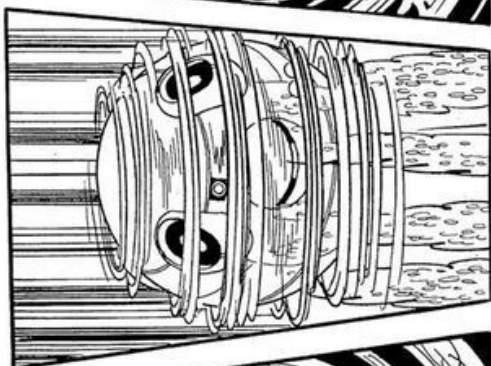
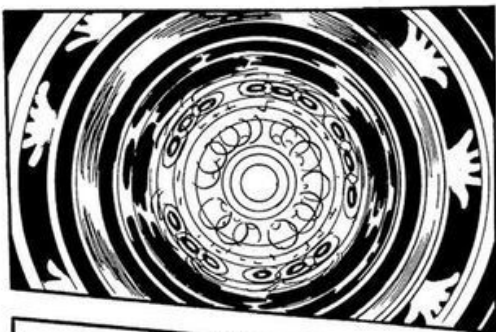
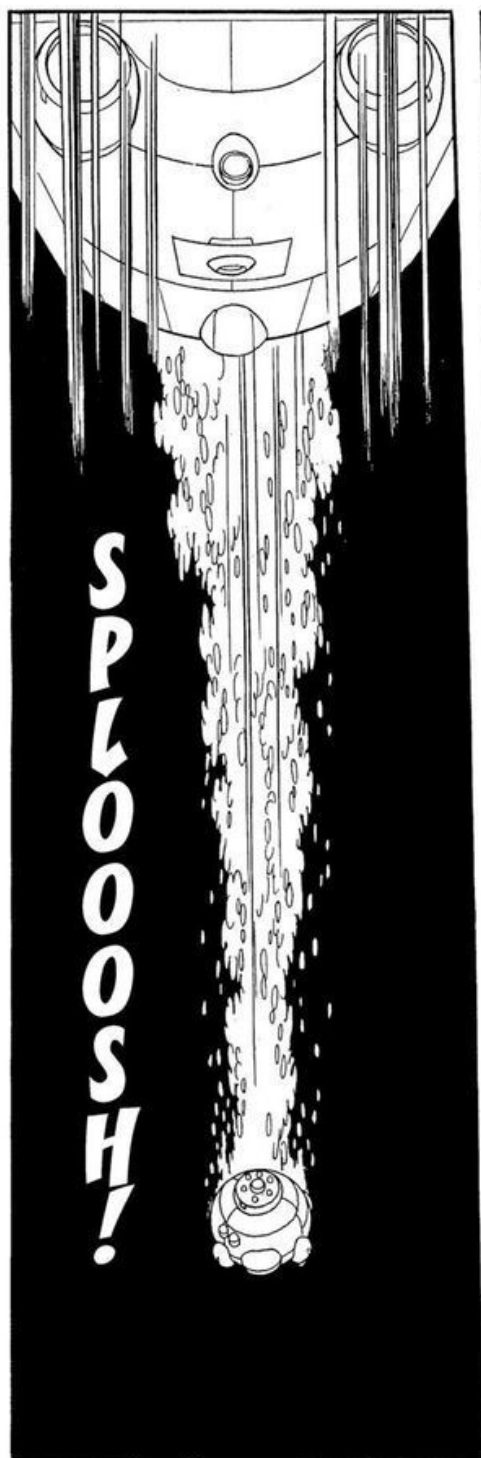
TAKE HIM AWAY, MEN... THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM I WANT HIM TO BE A MEEK AND DOCTILE BROTHER-IN-LAW...

...AND A **TRUE BELIEVER** IN THE FAITH...

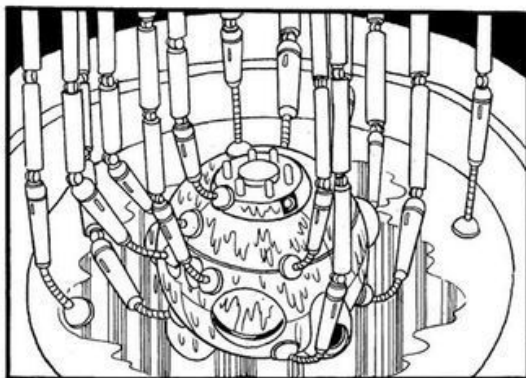
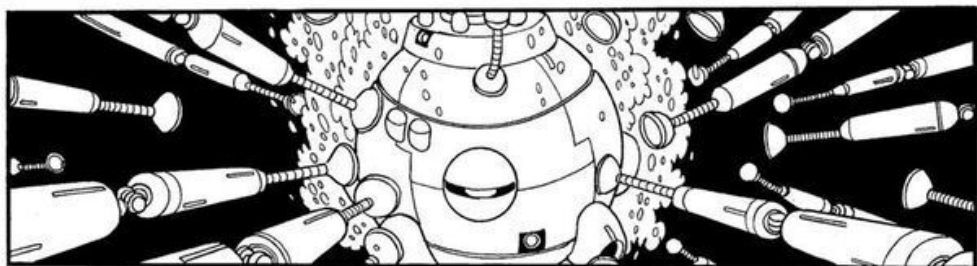
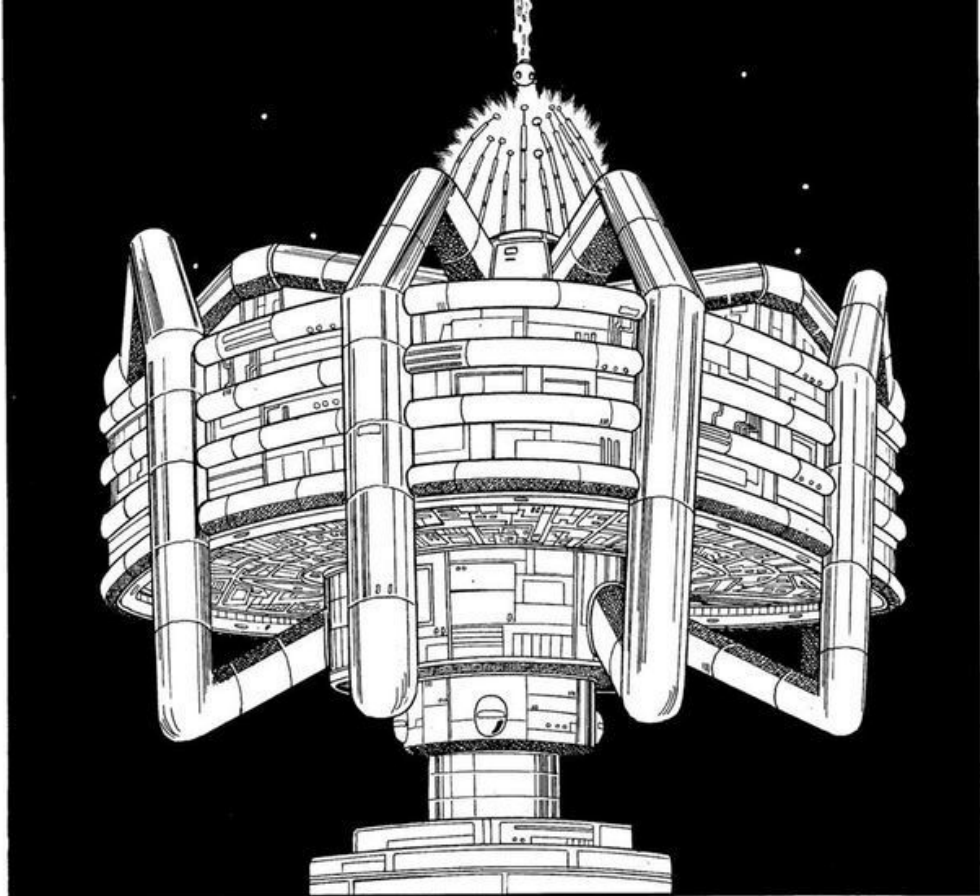




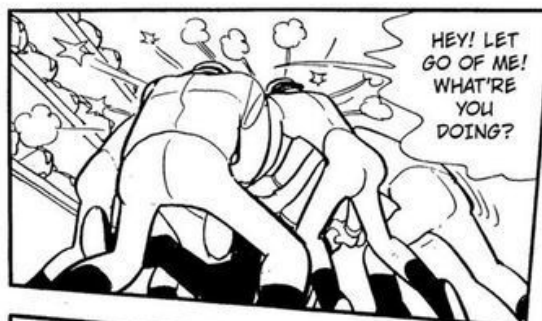
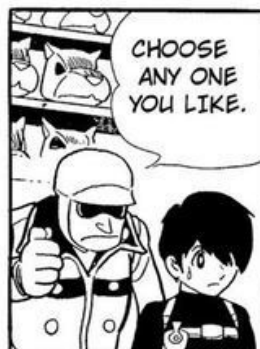
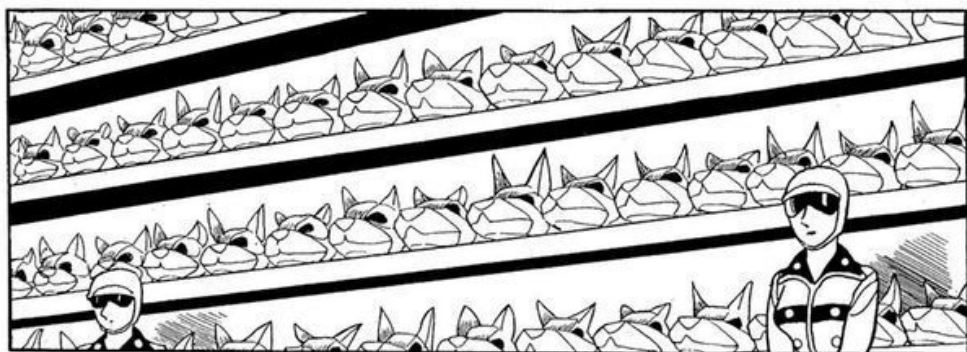




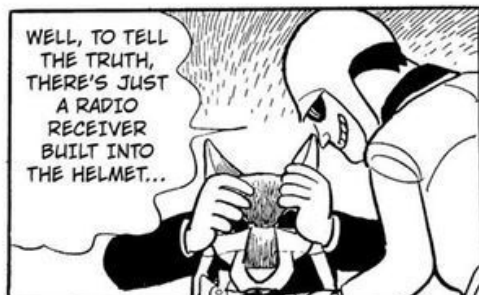






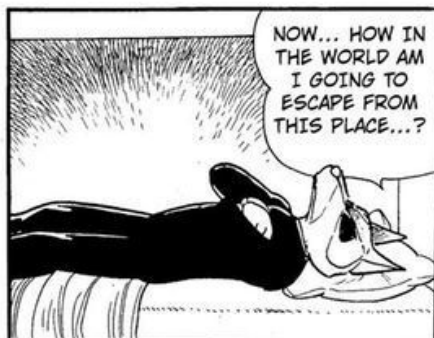
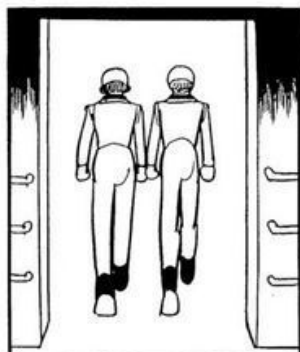


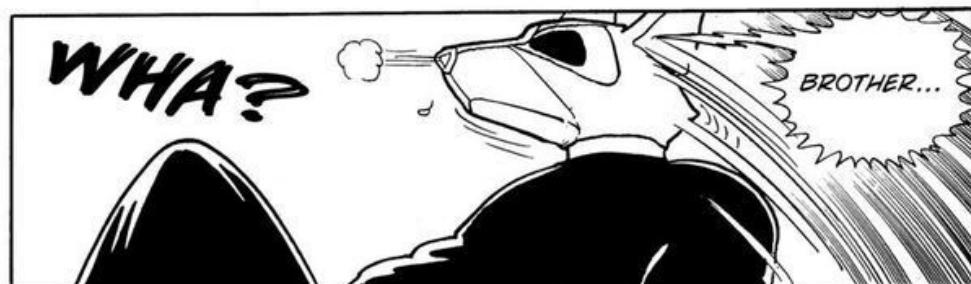






HERE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, WE HARVEST ENDLESS AMOUNTS OF PLANKTON, AND WE PROCESS IT INTO FOOD. OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER HAS TAUGHT US THAT THIS WILL BE THE SALVATION OF MANKIND.

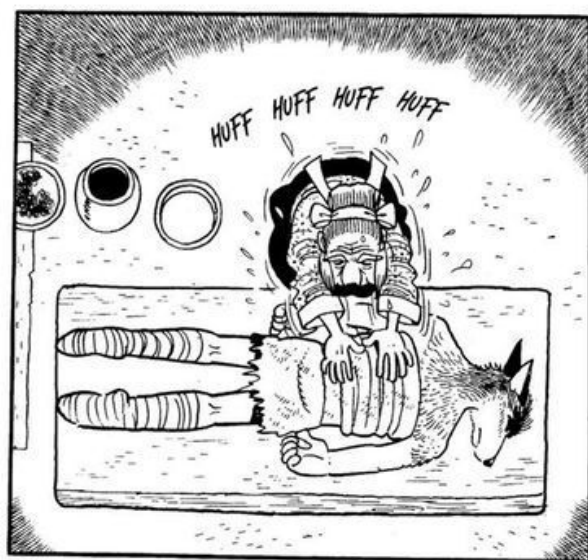


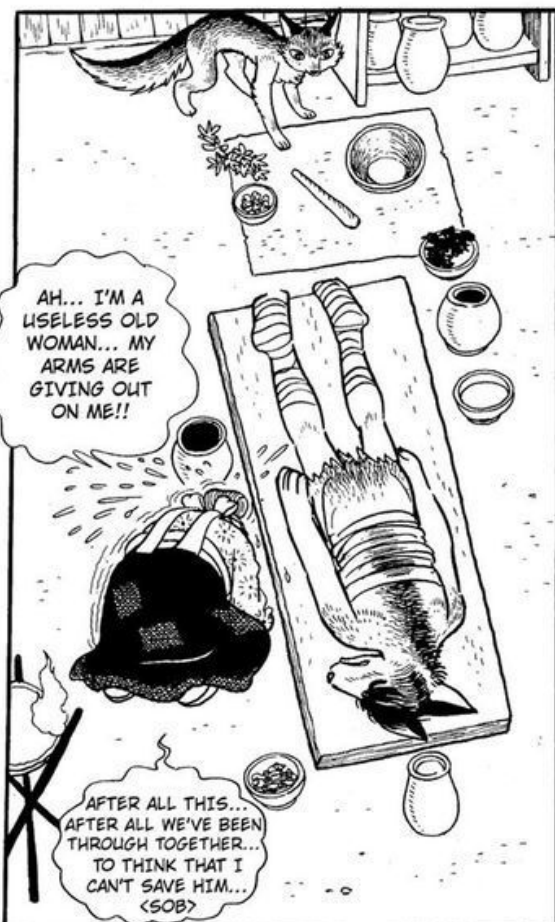




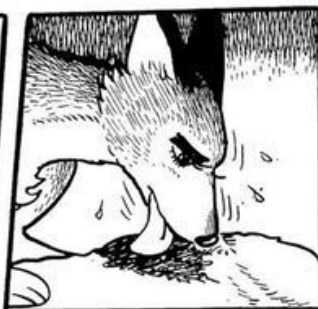
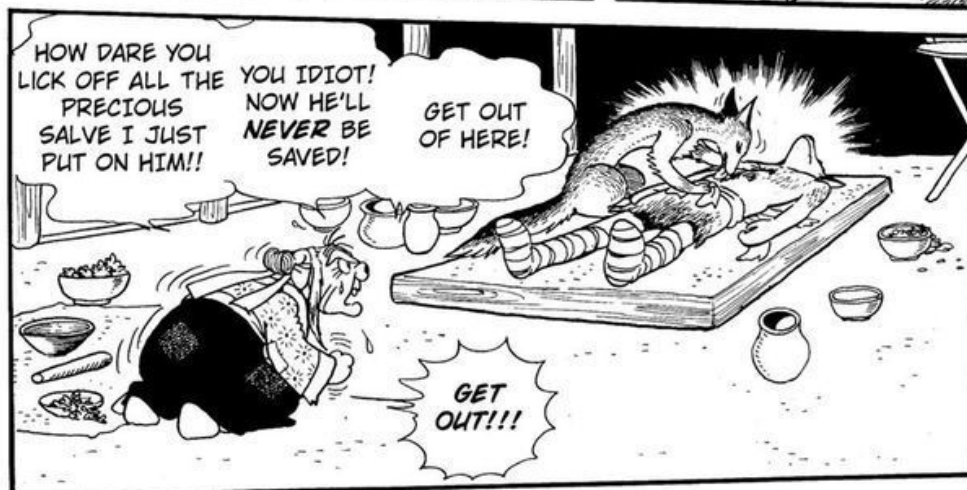




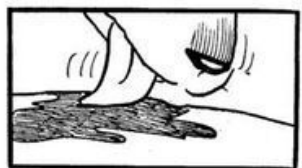












WELL,  
LOOK AT  
THAT...



I'D SAY  
BY THE  
LOOK IN  
YOUR  
EYES...

...THAT  
THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING  
GOING ON  
HERE!



YOU'RE AN  
ORDINARY,  
DUMB  
ANIMAL...

...BUT  
YOU'RE IN  
LOVE  
WITH  
HIM,  
AREN'T  
YOU...



YOU OUGHT TO BE  
ASHAMED OF YOURSELF...  
WHO EVER HEARD OF A  
WOLF FALLING IN LOVE  
WITH A HUMAN!!

AH,  
BUT  
NOW I  
GET  
IT...

WELL, LET ME  
TELL YOU,  
DEAR... HE'S  
NOT A WOLF,  
HE'S A HUMAN...  
A MAN!

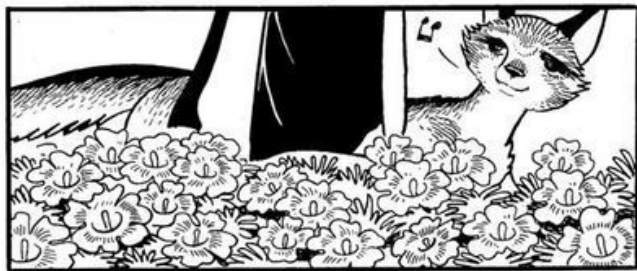
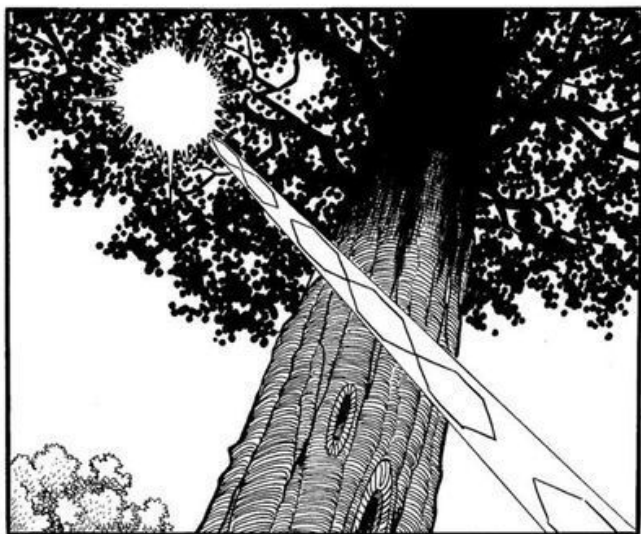
AND I'LL  
NEVER  
LET YOU  
HAVE  
HIM!  
WOLFIE  
HERE IS  
LIKE MY  
OWN SON!  
HE'S  
MINE, ALL  
MINE!

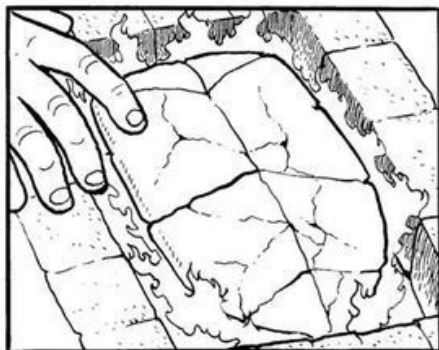
...YOU WERE  
FOOLED BY HIS  
WOLF FACE,  
RIGHT?! YOU  
THOUGHT HE  
WAS A MALE  
WOLF!!



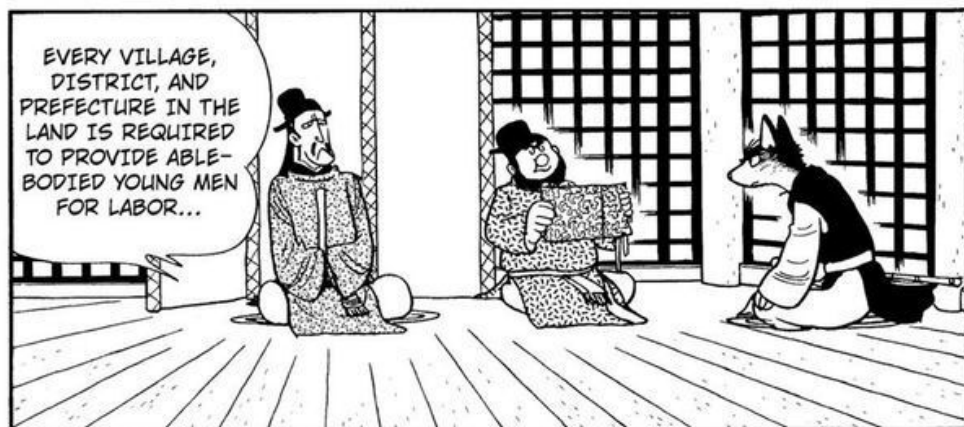
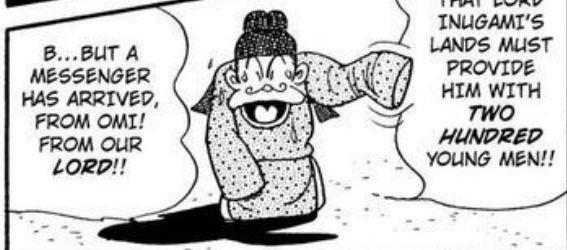
AH...WHAT AN ACT  
OF PERVERSION,  
MADAM...  
KISSING A  
FEMALE  
WOLF!!

OH,  
SHADDUP,  
YOU FOOL!

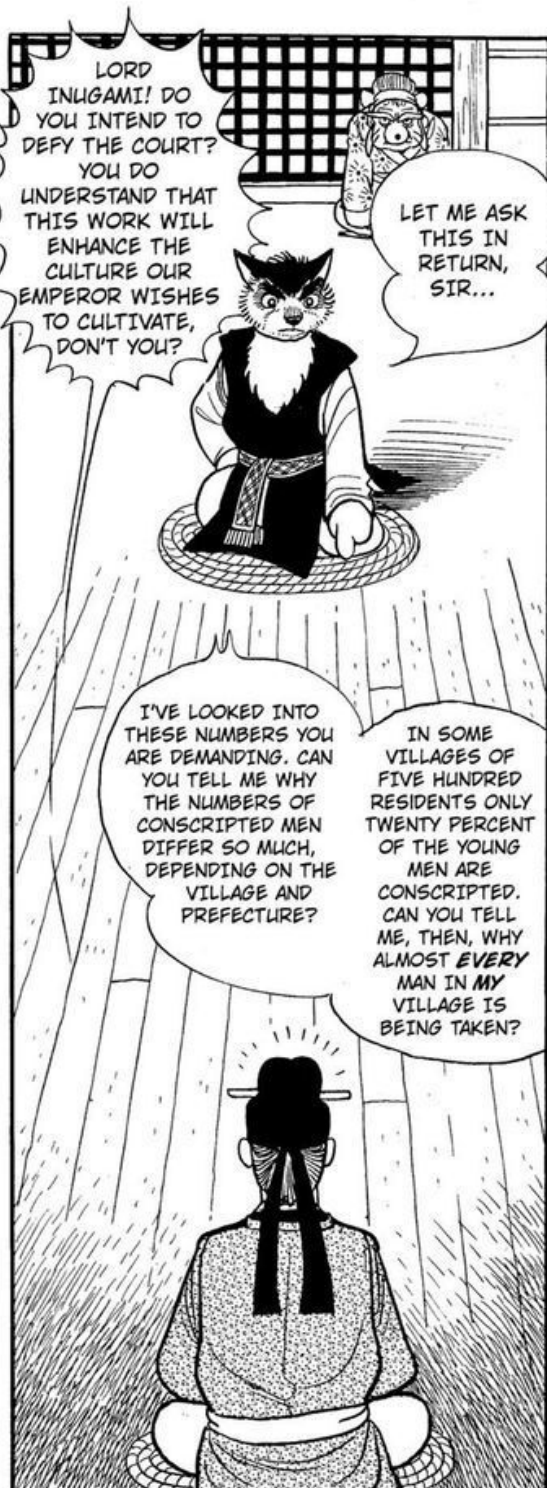
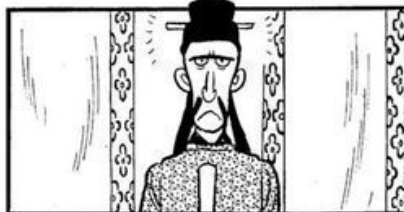




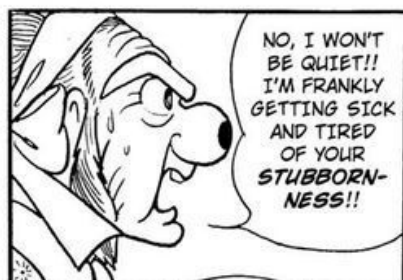




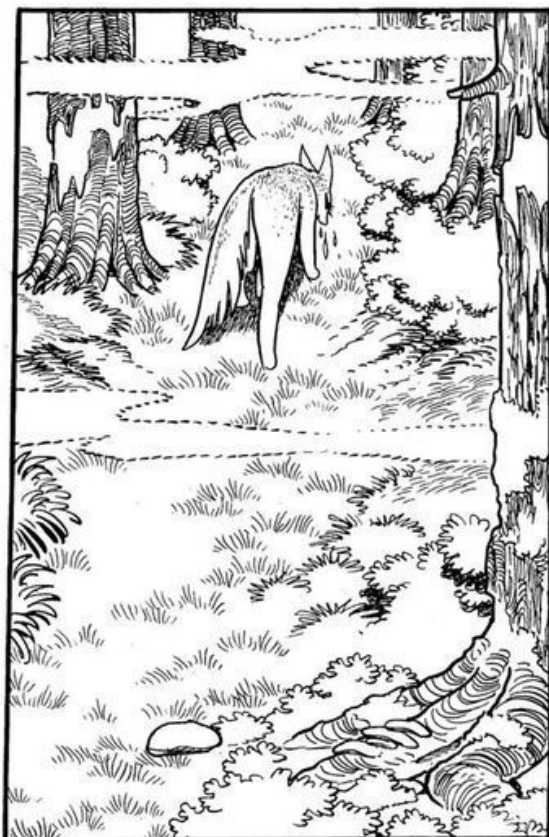
















MARIMO!



MARIMO!  
WHERE  
ARE YOU!



SHE'S  
GONE...

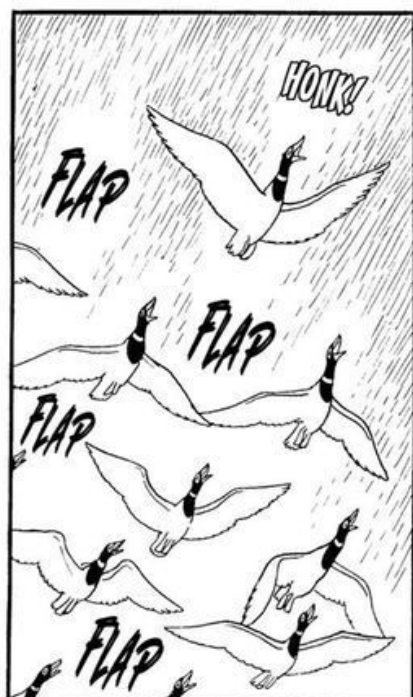
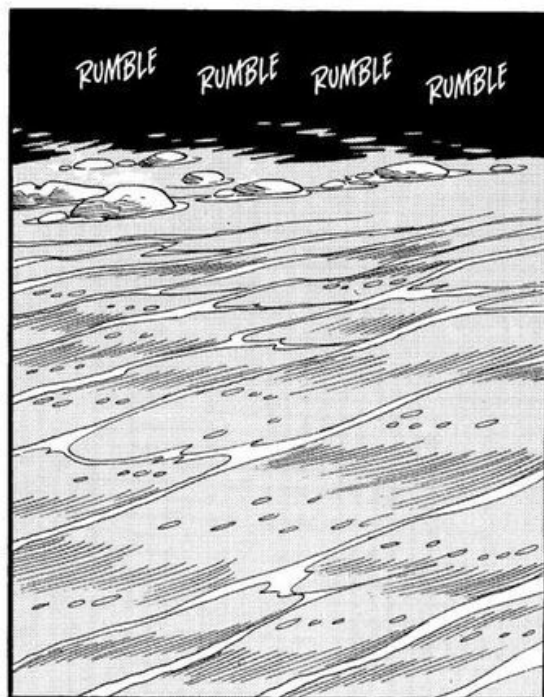
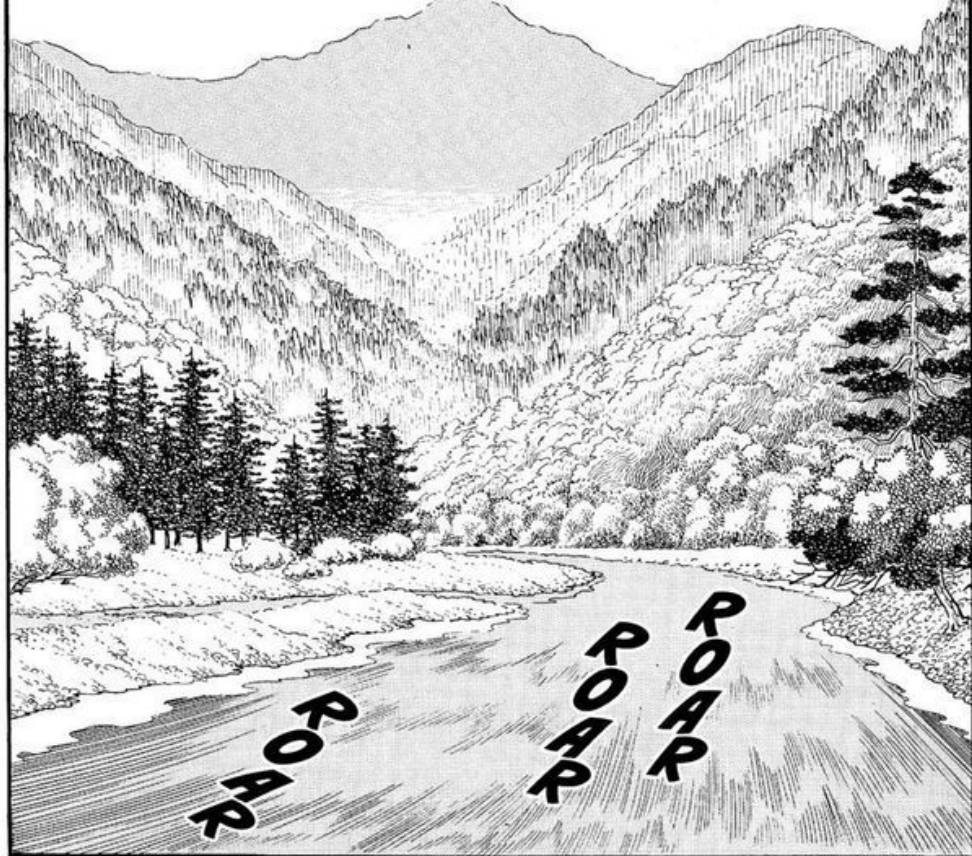
MARIMO!

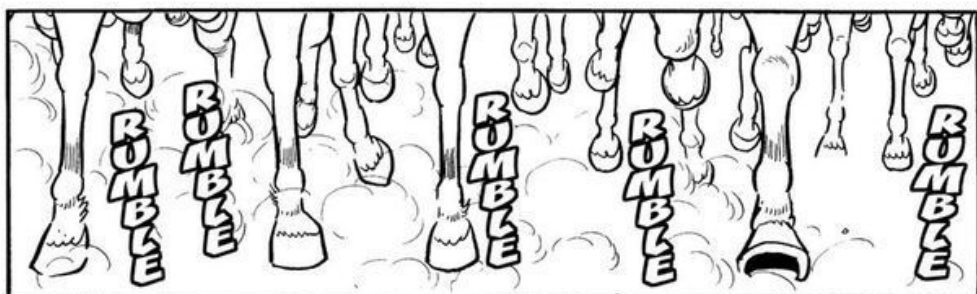
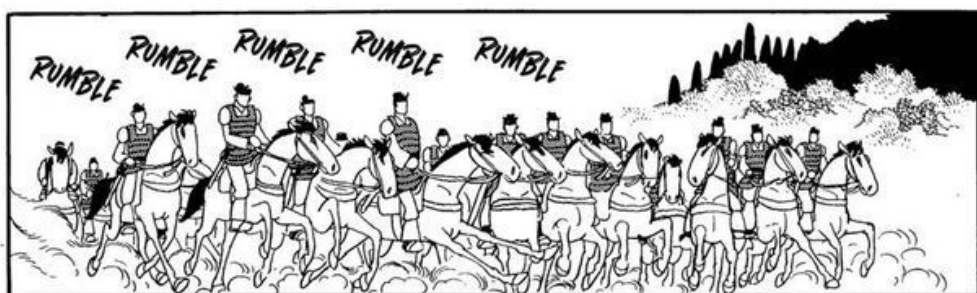
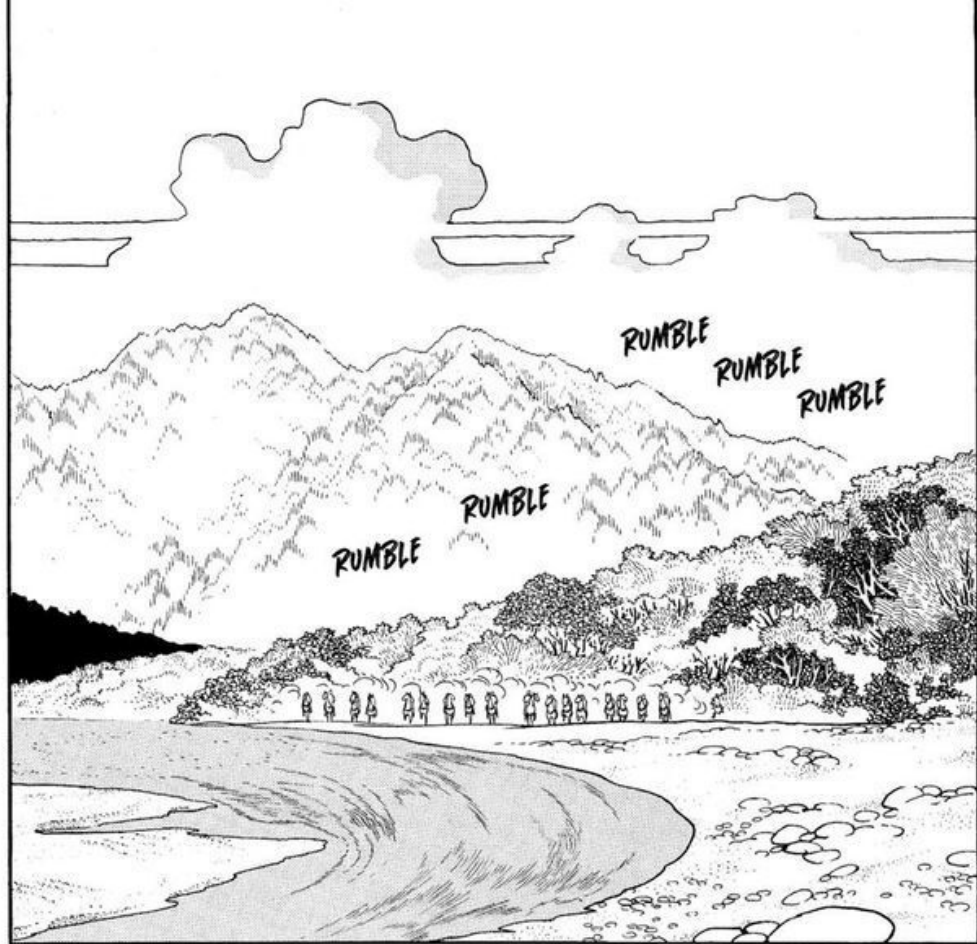


MARIMO!  
FORGIVE ME!  
I LOVE YOU!!



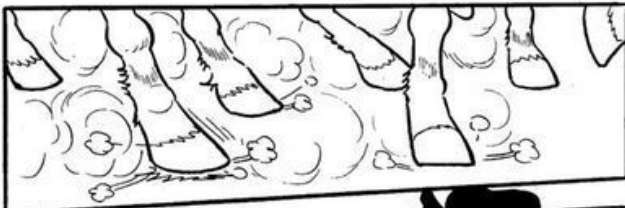








HALT!



LORD INUGAMI  
SUKLINE'S  
ESTATE IS JUST  
DOWN THE  
RIVER...



WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO  
PAY A LITTLE VISIT, MEN,  
TO THIS WILLFUL  
INUGAMI CHARACTER,  
WHO HAS SPURNED AN  
IMPERIAL ORDER FOR  
CONSCRIPT LABOR.

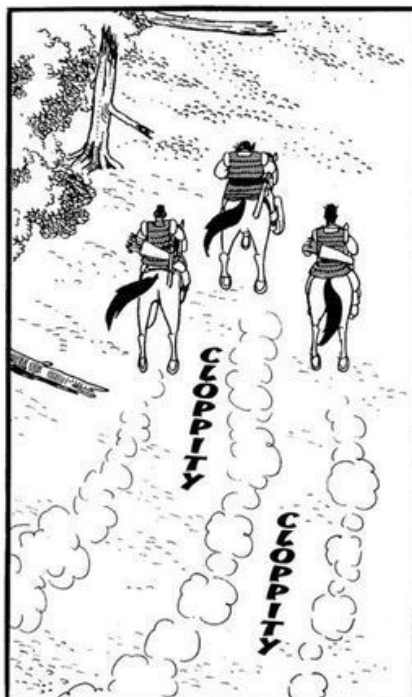
WE ARE TO USE ANY  
FORCE NECESSARY  
TO MAKE HIM  
COMPLY. IF HE  
RESISTS, WE ARE  
AUTHORIZED TO  
**CONFISCATE**  
HIS LAND.

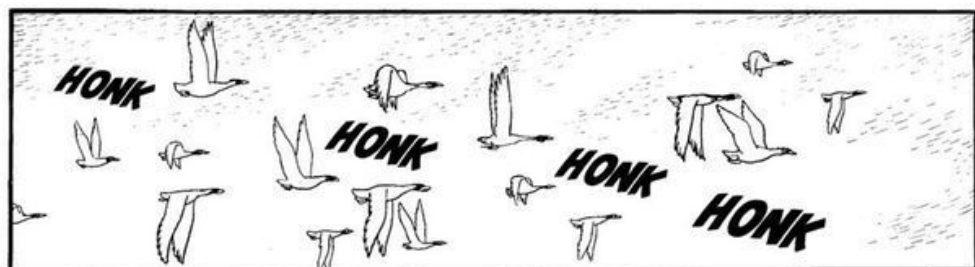


WE COULD  
EASILY  
STAGE A  
SURPRISE  
ATTACK, BUT  
I AM A MAN  
OF HONOR!

I'M GOING TO  
GIVE HIM ONE  
LAST CHANCE  
TO LISTEN TO  
REASON. YOU  
ALL WILL  
WAIT HERE.











WHAT DO YOU WANT?  
AND WHY THE NEED  
FOR ALL YOUR  
ARMOR?

I AM THE  
IMPERIALLY APPOINTED  
GENERAL IKI NO  
FUBITO  
KARAKUNI...



AND I HEAR THAT  
YOU COME FROM  
THE KINGDOM  
OF BAEKJE,  
YOURSELF.



THAT'S  
TRUE. WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MATTER?



I, TOO,  
AM A  
NATURAL-  
IZED  
CITIZEN  
HERE.

I WAS  
BORN IN  
CHANG'AN.

SO I GUESS  
WE HAVE  
SOMETHING  
IN COMMON.

\* CAPITAL OF TANG COURT IN CHINA



I FEEL  
OBLIGED TO  
BRING YOU  
THIS  
WARNING.

DON'T LET YOUR  
PRIDE GET THE  
BEST OF YOU,  
INUGAMI.  
SOVEREIGN MIGHT  
IS ENORMOUS.  
JUST WHAT DO  
YOU THINK YOU  
CAN ACHIEVE BY  
DEFYING AN  
IMPERIAL ORDER?

SO YOU  
CAME  
HERE TO  
TRY AND  
CHANGE  
MY  
MIND,  
EH?



MY ORDERS  
ARE TO KILL  
YOU, INUGAMI  
SUKUNE. BUT  
BEING A  
FELLOW  
EXPATRIATE, I  
ALSO WANT  
TO TRY AND  
SAVE YOU.



JUST  
DEMONSTRATE  
YOUR  
ALLEGIANCE BY  
OFFERING THE  
TWO HUNDRED  
MEN TO THE  
COURT. NOTHING  
MORE WILL  
BE SAID.

I'M SORRY,  
BUT I  
HAVE TO  
REFUSE.





...THAT YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN CONVERTING TO BUDDHISM. CAN I ASK WHY?



I'M SIMPLY OPPOSED TO IT. I'M NOT SAYING THAT BUDDHISM IS A BAD OR FALSE RELIGION.

WELL, IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, WHY NOT JUST ACCEPT IT, INUGAMI ...?

BECAUSE I TAKE ISSUE WITH THE IDEA OF BUDDHISM USING FORCE TO STAMP OUT ALL THE OTHER GODS.



FROM ANCIENT TIMES, THIS LAND HAS ENJOYED THE PROTECTION OF MANY GODS.

NOW THOSE SAME GODS ARE FEARFUL OF THE PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT ON THEM BY BUDDHISM.



IN OTHER WORDS, THEY SEE BUDDHISM AS AN INVADER!



AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH A PRONOUNCEMENT, INUGAMI?!

YES, I DO. AND I'LL PROTECT THE NATIVE SPIRITS TO MY LAST BREATH.





I TOLD YOU  
WHAT WOULD  
HAPPEN,  
KUCHI'INU!



SAVE YOUR  
BREATH, OLD  
WOMAN!

I'VE COME  
THIS FAR, SO  
THERE'S NO  
GOING BACK  
NOW!



WELL, IF YOU  
WON'T, I'LL GO  
TO THAT GENERAL  
AND INTERCEDE  
ON YOUR  
BEHALF!!

TRY THAT AND I'LL  
TIE YOU UP AND  
THROW YOU IN THE  
STOREROOM!

WHAT?!!  
HOW CAN  
YOU EVEN  
SAY  
SUCH A  
THING?



LISTEN TO ME,  
KUCHI'INU...THIS IS  
YOUR **LAST CHANCE**...  
IT'S YOUR LAST  
CHANCE TO SHOW  
YOUR LOYALTY TO  
YOUR LORD...

NO, YOU LISTEN, OLD  
WOMAN! I WILL HAVE  
**NOTHING** TO DO  
WITH THESE THUGS  
WHO'RE PUSHING  
BUDDHISM DOWN  
OUR THROATS!



SIR! SIR! THERE'S  
**TROUBLE!** THAT  
GENERAL'S BACK! HE'S  
ATTACKING WITH A  
TROOP OF **MOUNTED  
SOLDIERS!**

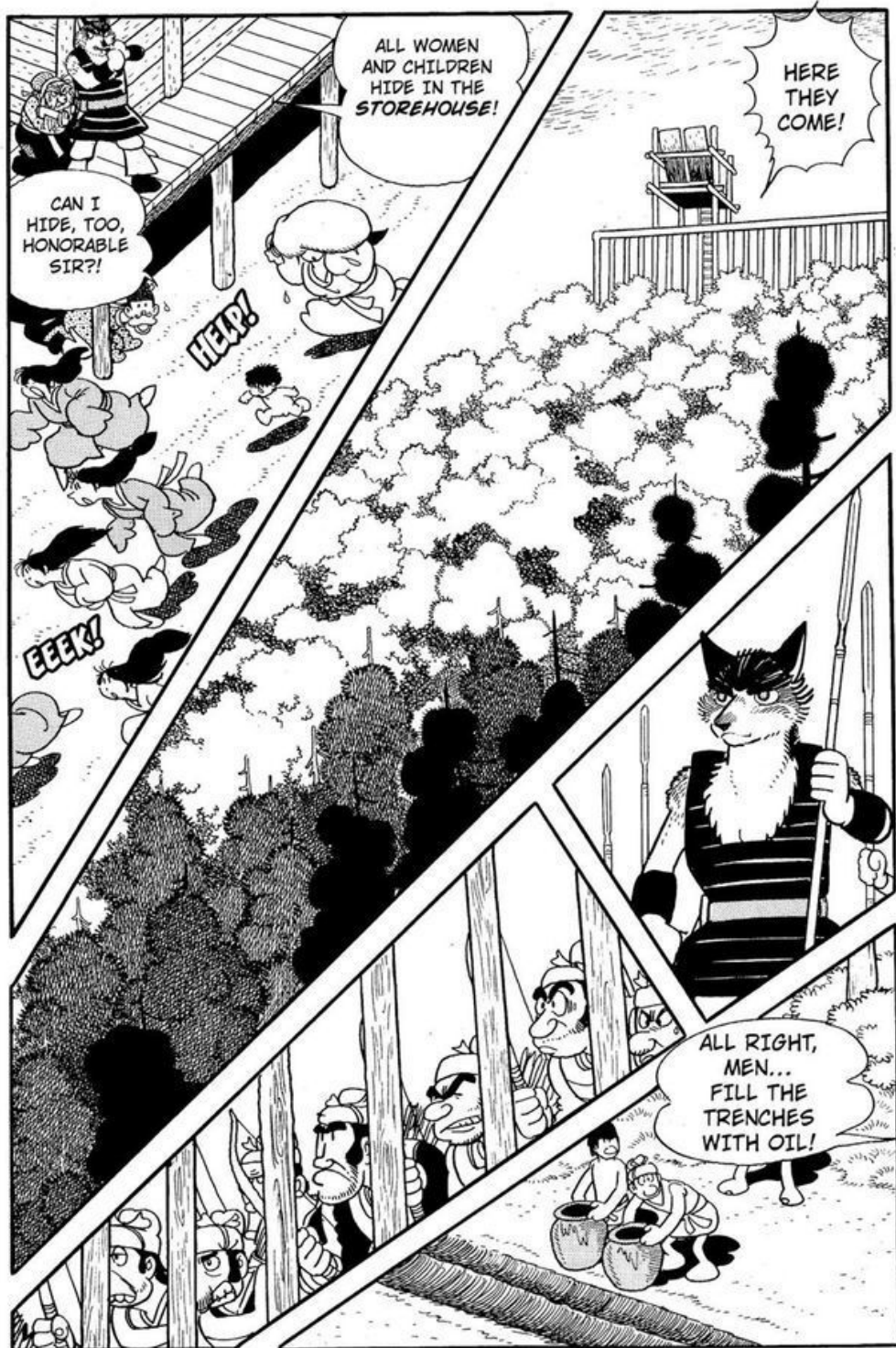
WE'VE  
GOTTA  
SHUT THE  
GATE!



AHH...  
IT'S TOO  
LATE...

THEY'LL  
DESTROY THE  
WHOLE  
VILLAGE, AND  
ALL OF US,  
TOO!!





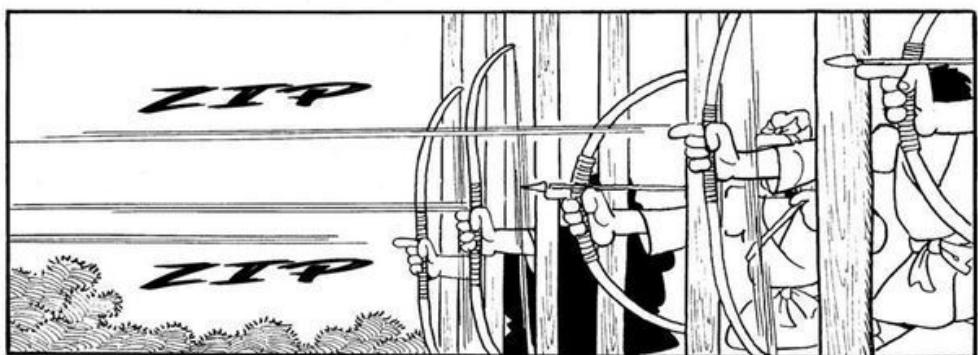
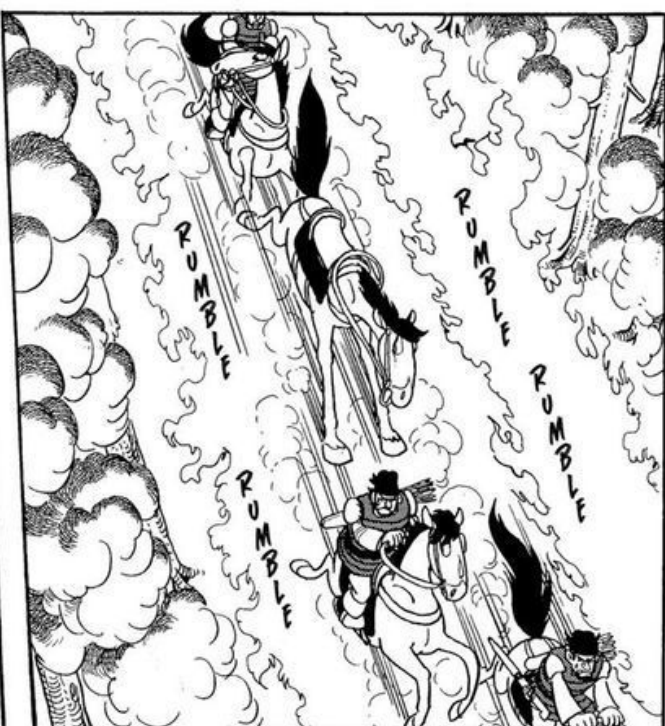


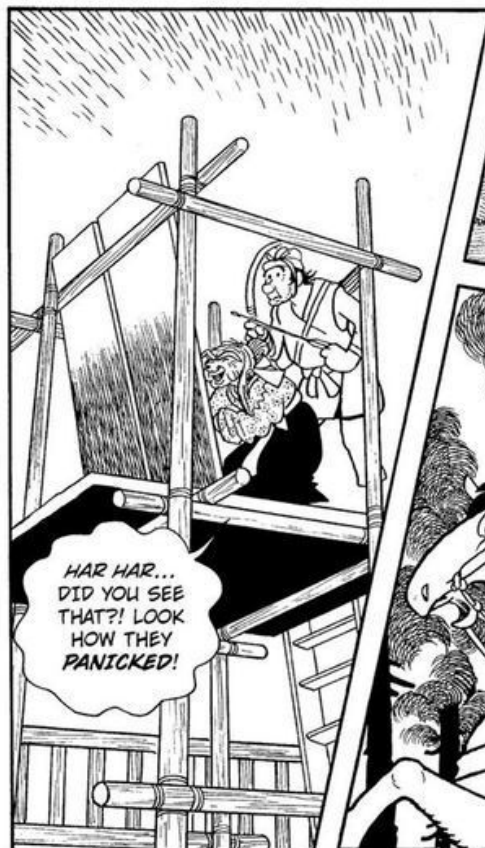
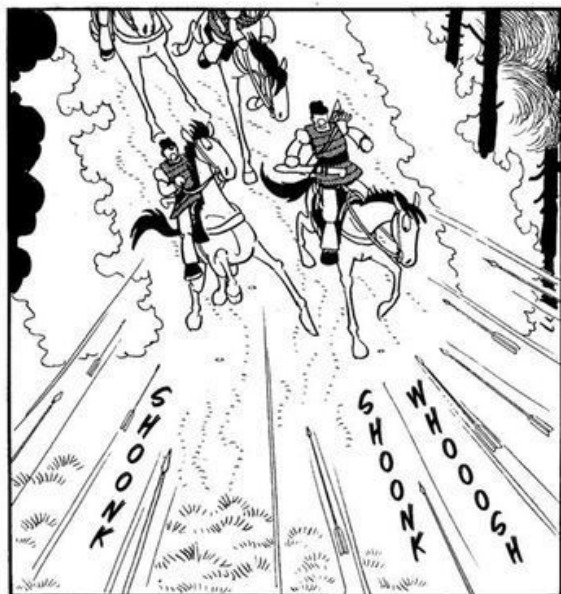






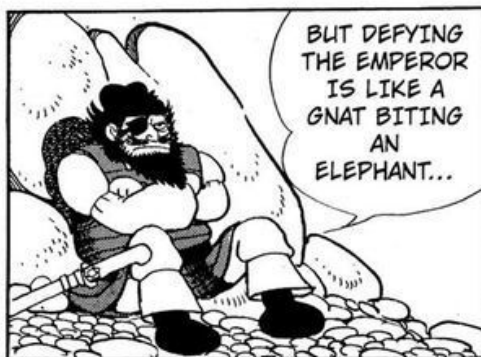




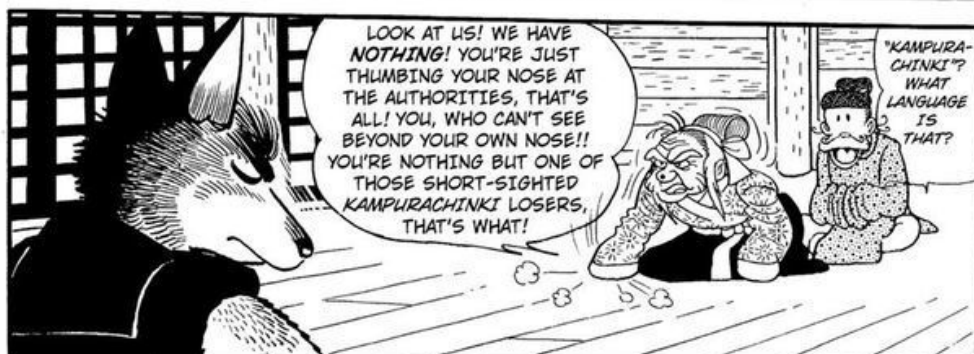
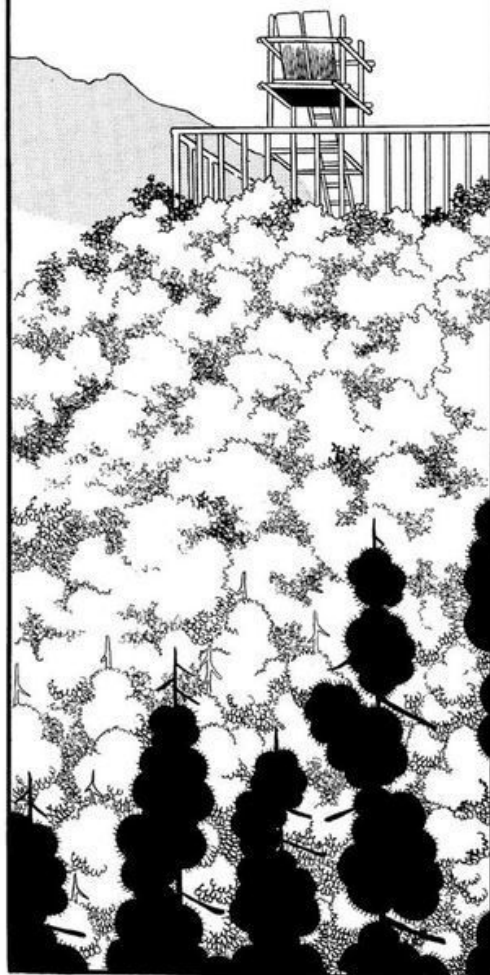




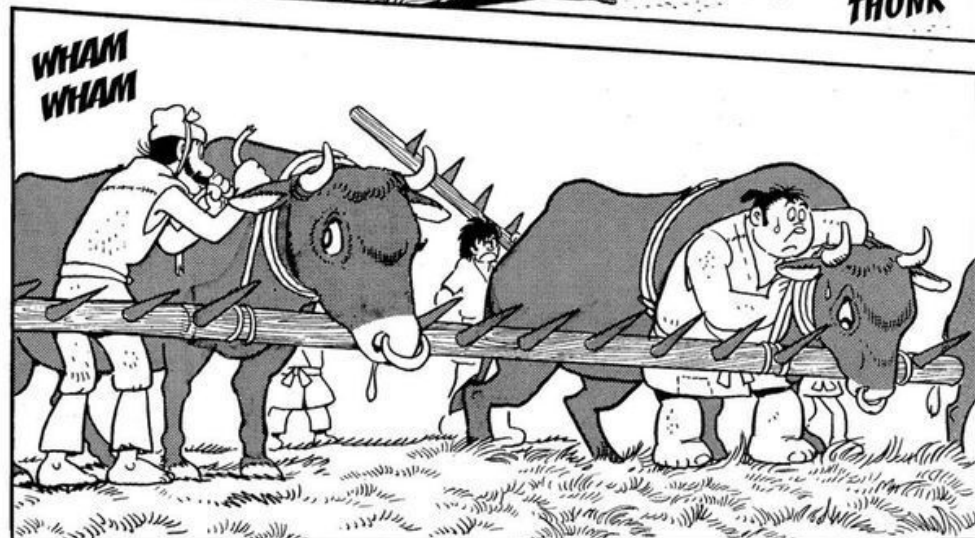
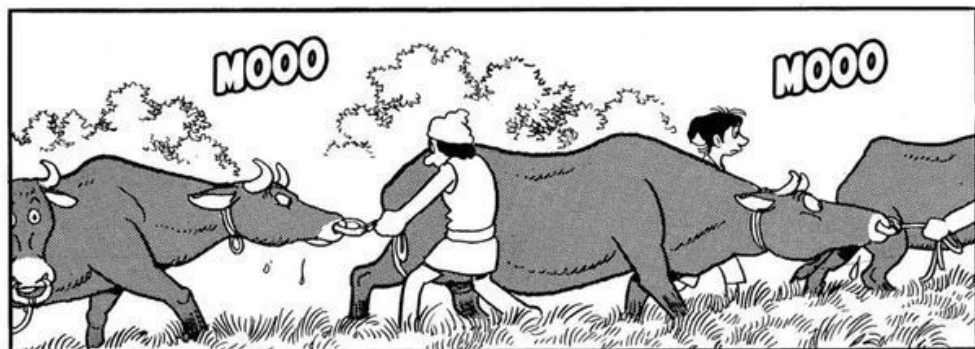


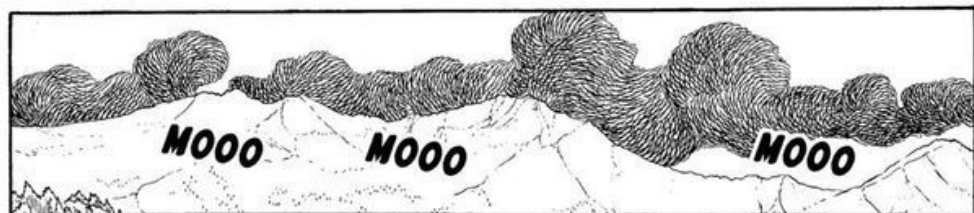
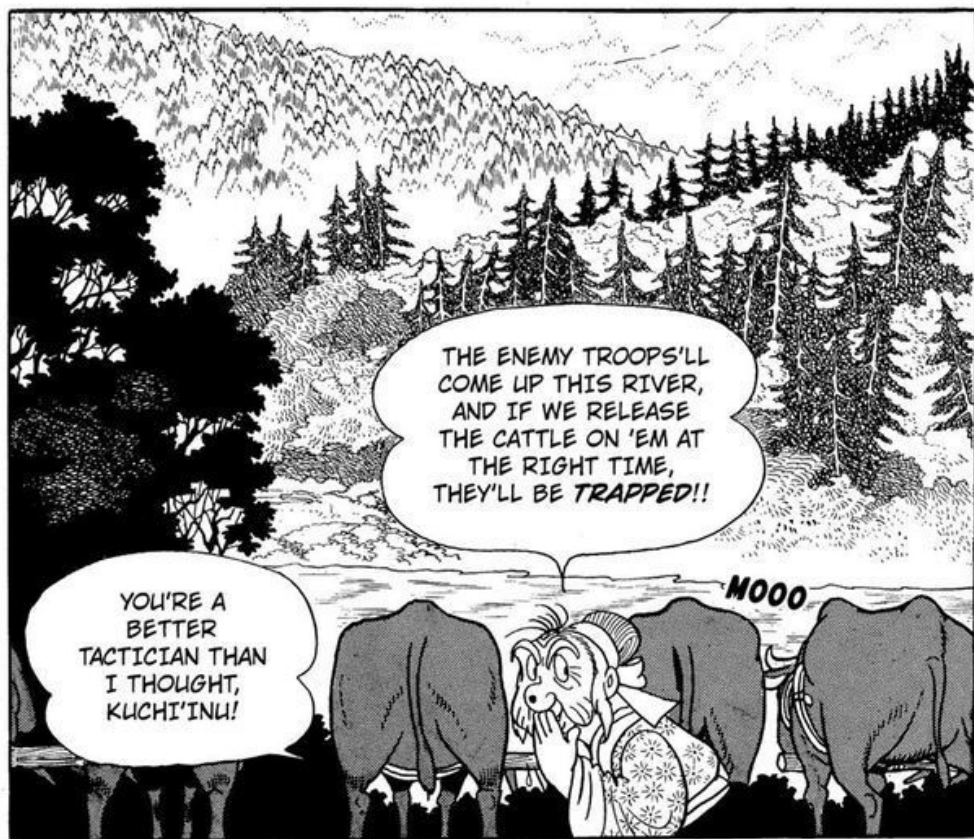


**SILENCE**

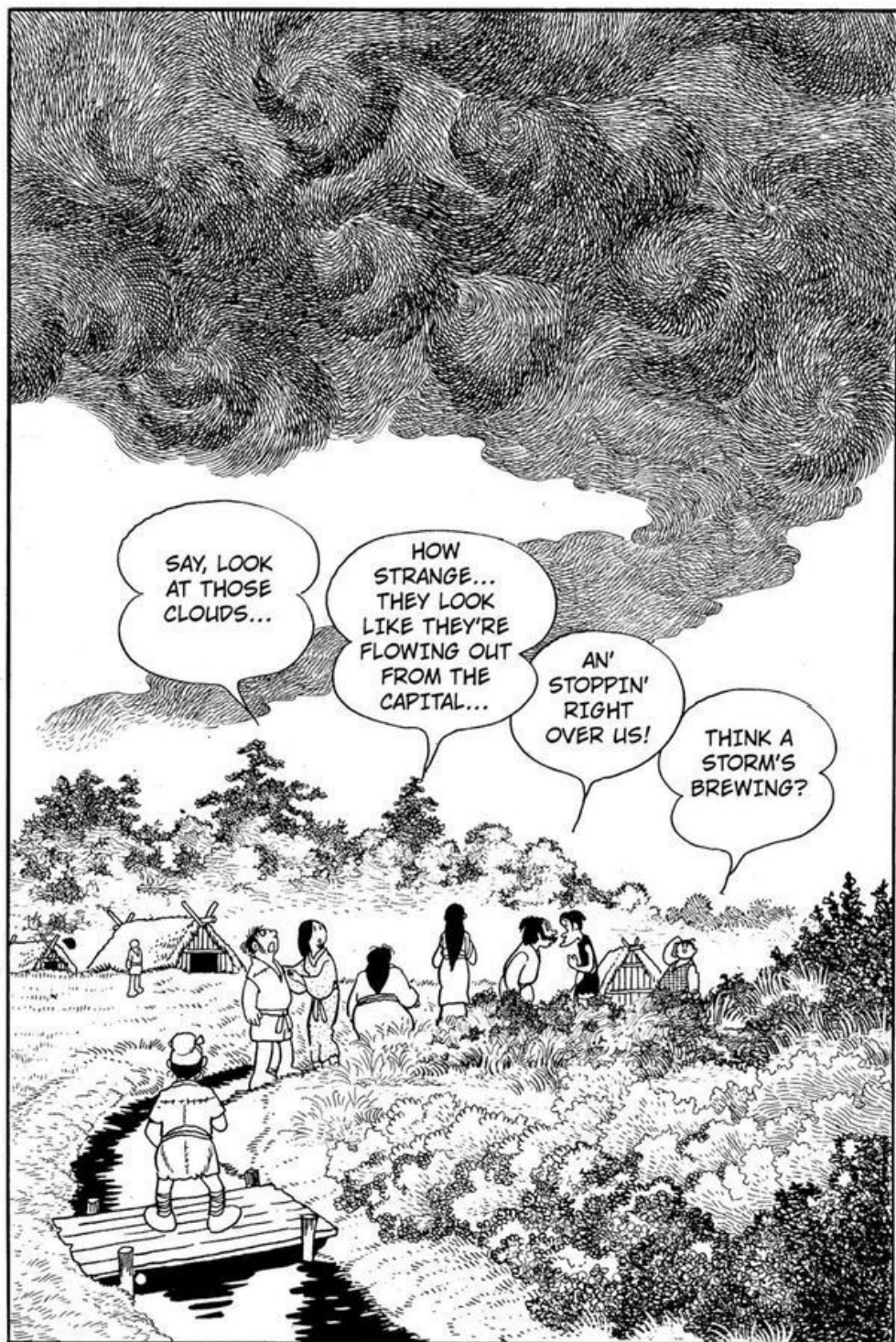


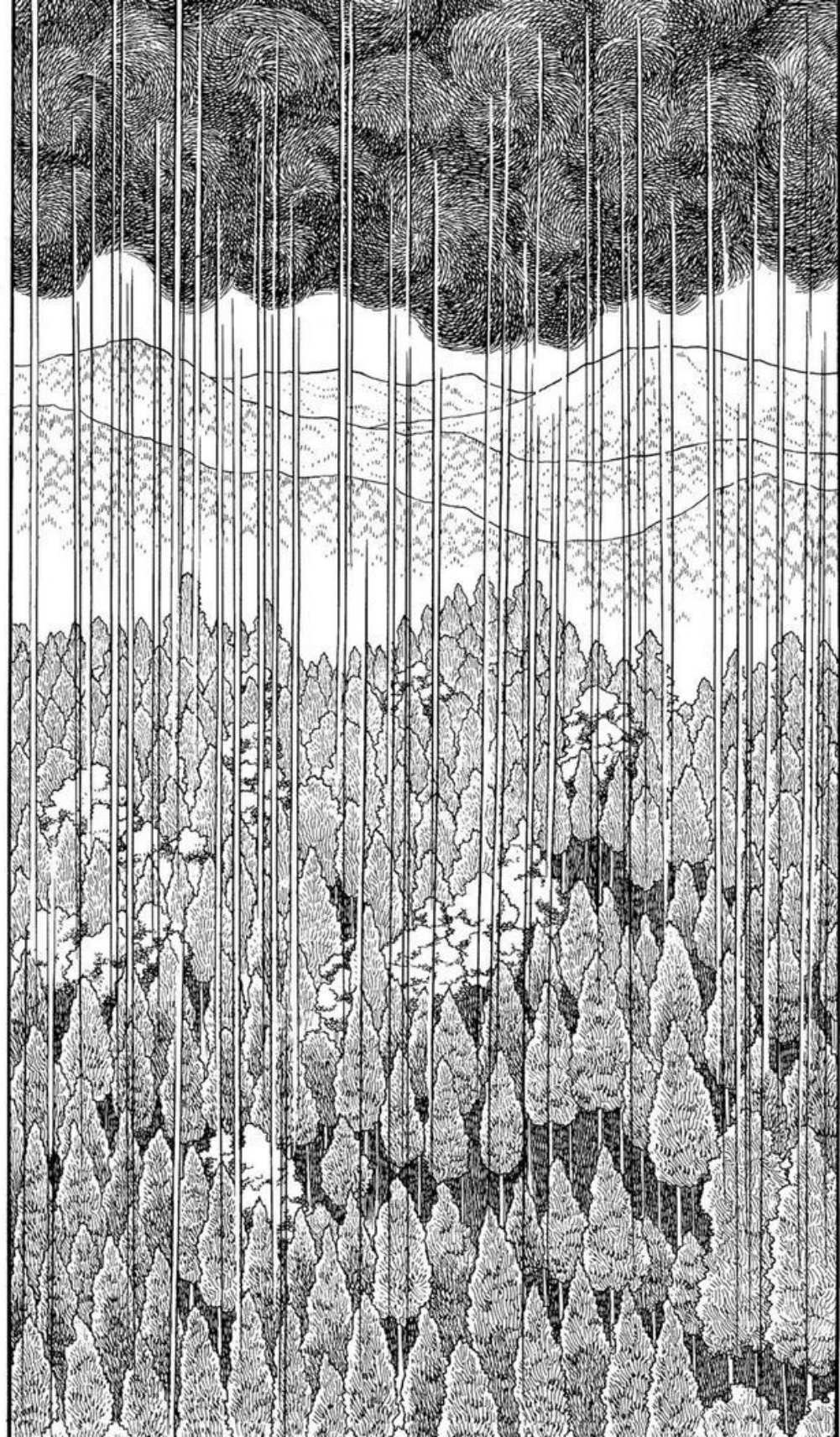


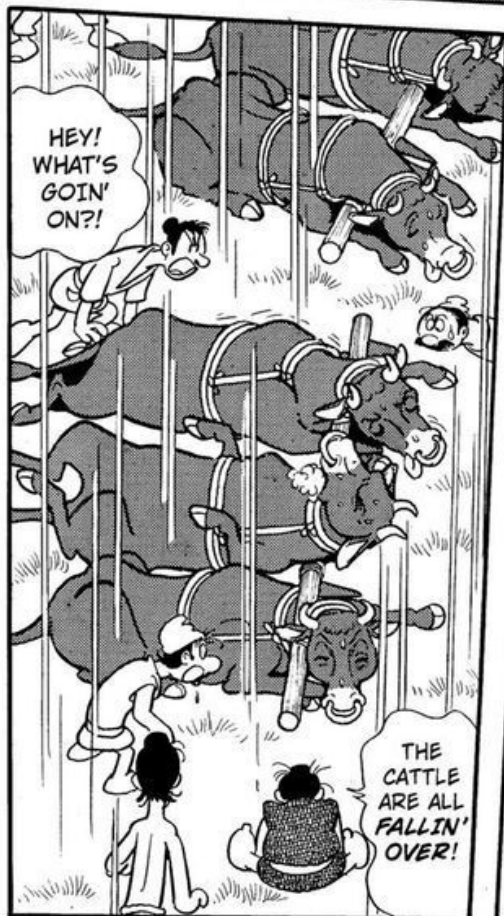
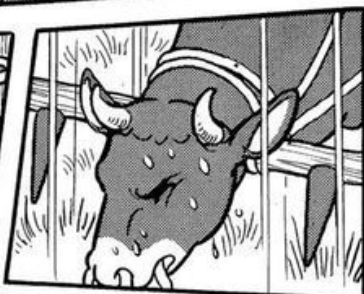


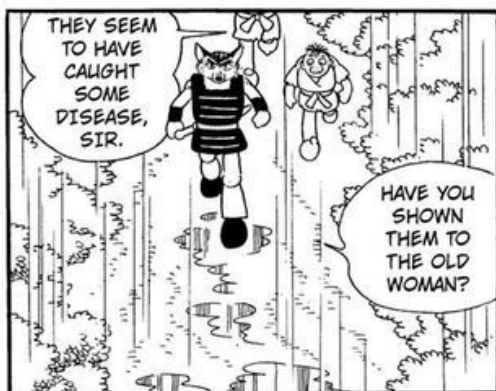




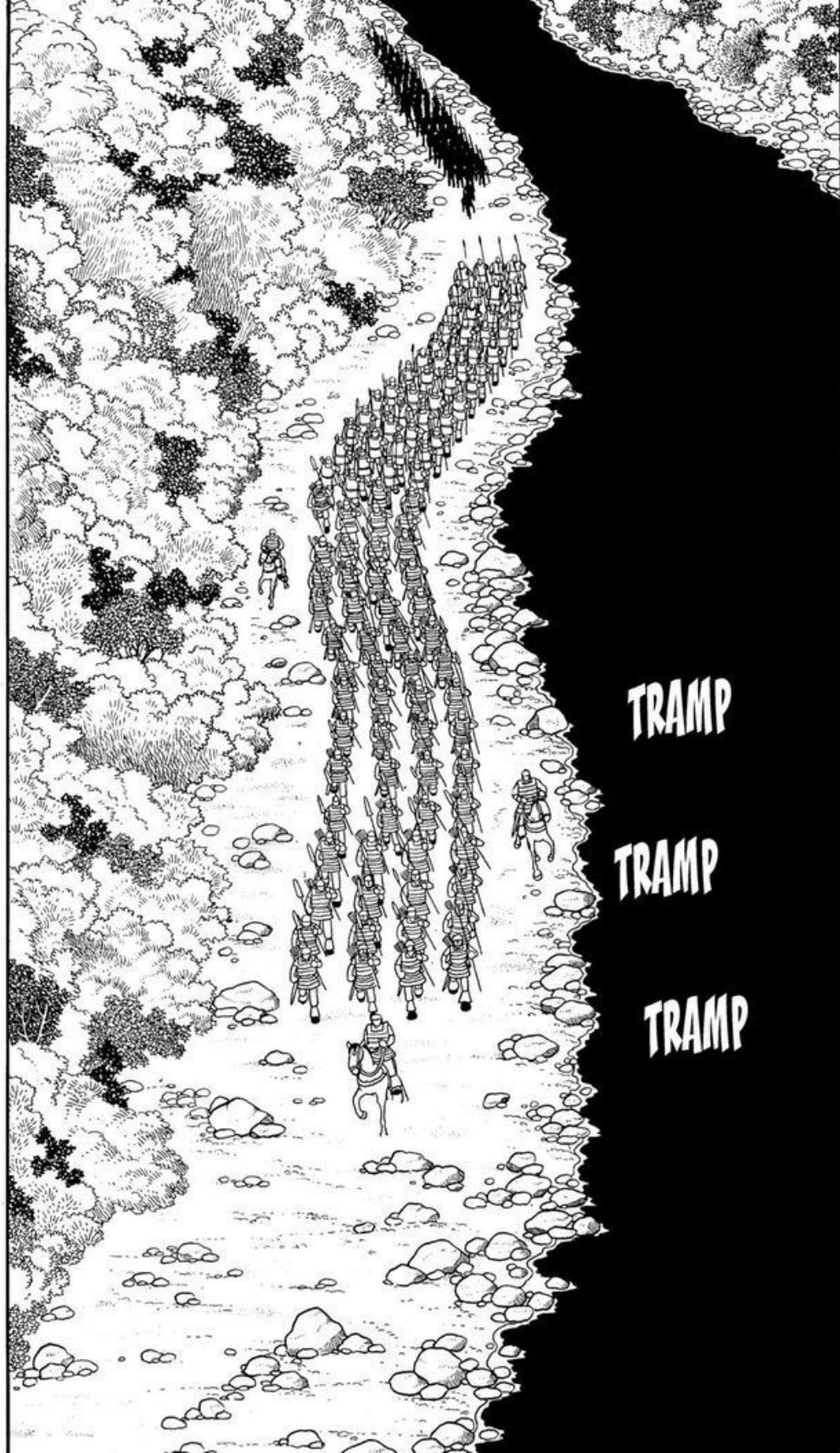




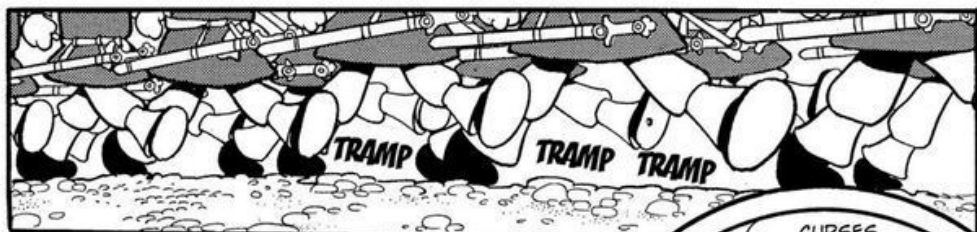










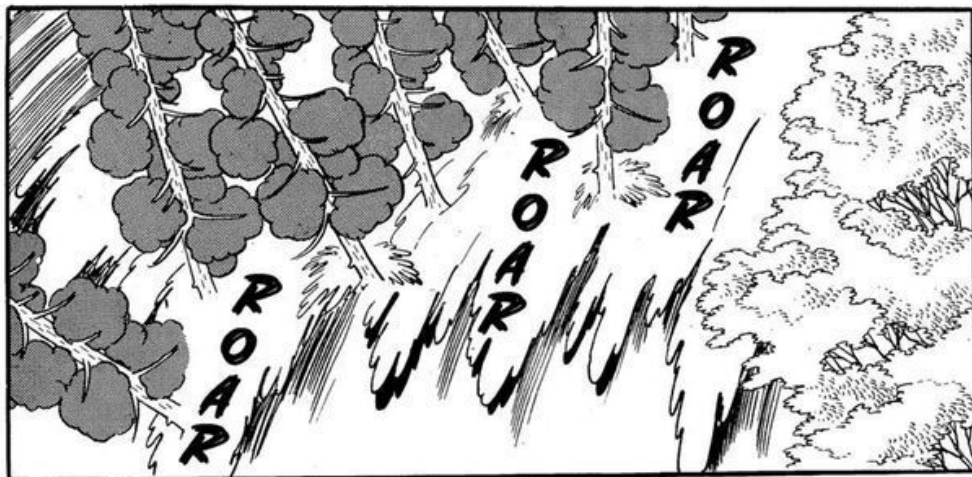


B...BUT...HOW ARE WE GOING TO FACE FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND SOLDIERS?! WE DON'T WANT TO DIE... WE WANT TO LIVE!

GET AHEAD OF YOURSELVES! NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO DIE!

IF NECESSARY, I'LL LET THE IMPERIAL TROOPS TAKE MY HEAD... AND ONCE I'M DEAD...







IT'S A FLASH FLOOD!!

WHOOOOOMM

RUN FOR IT!!



ROAR!

RUN!  
OLD WOMAN,  
RUN!

ROAR!



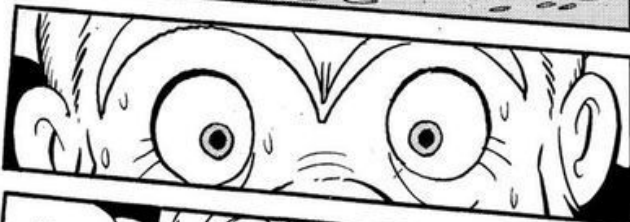
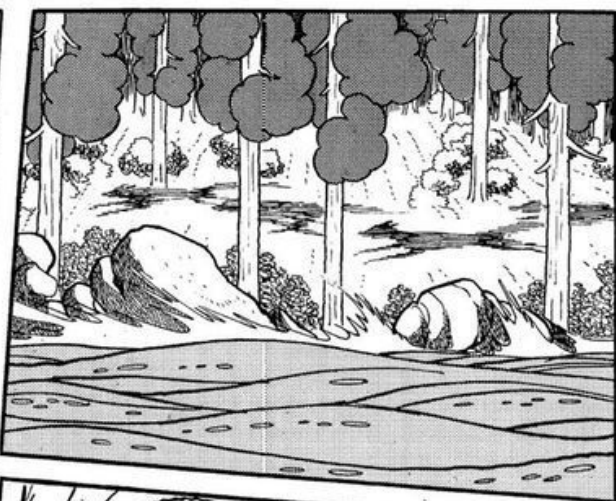
ROAR

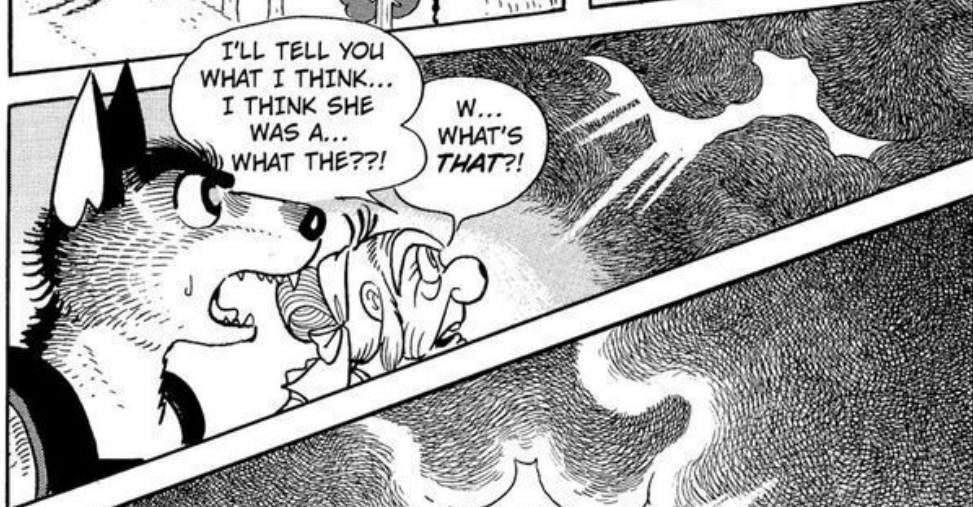












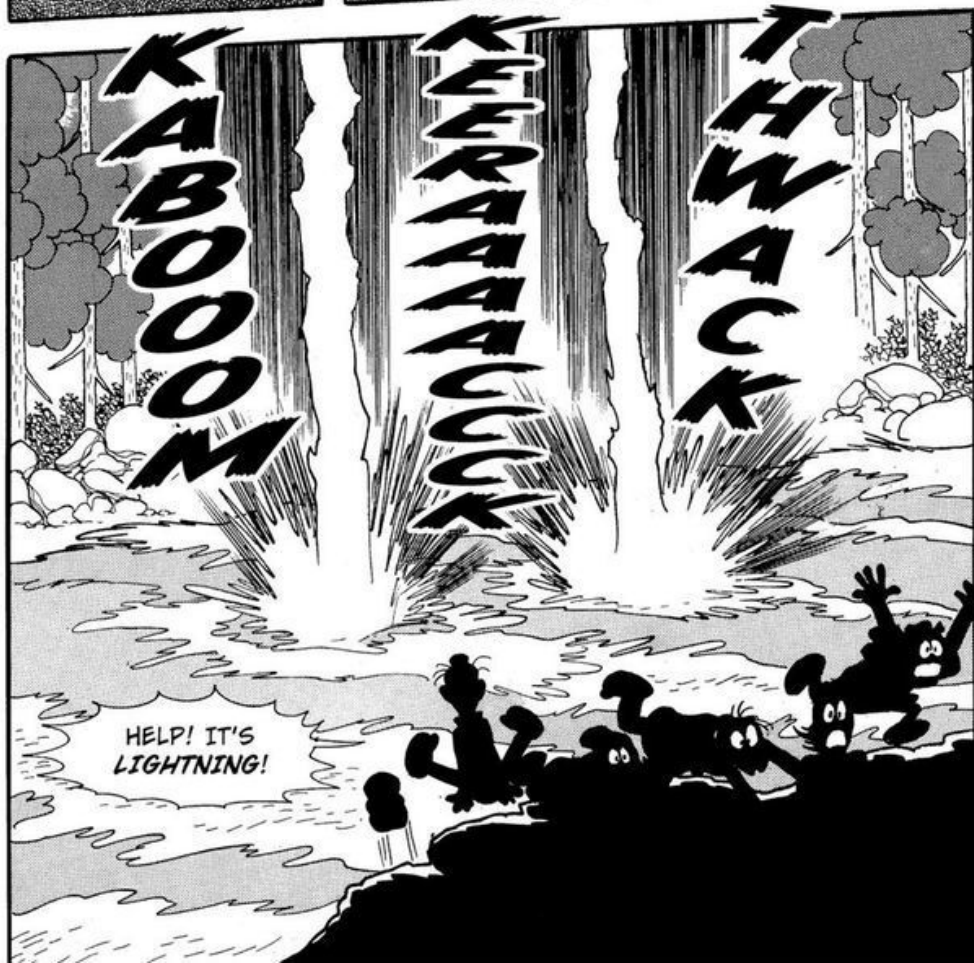


THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
IN THE  
CLOUDS!

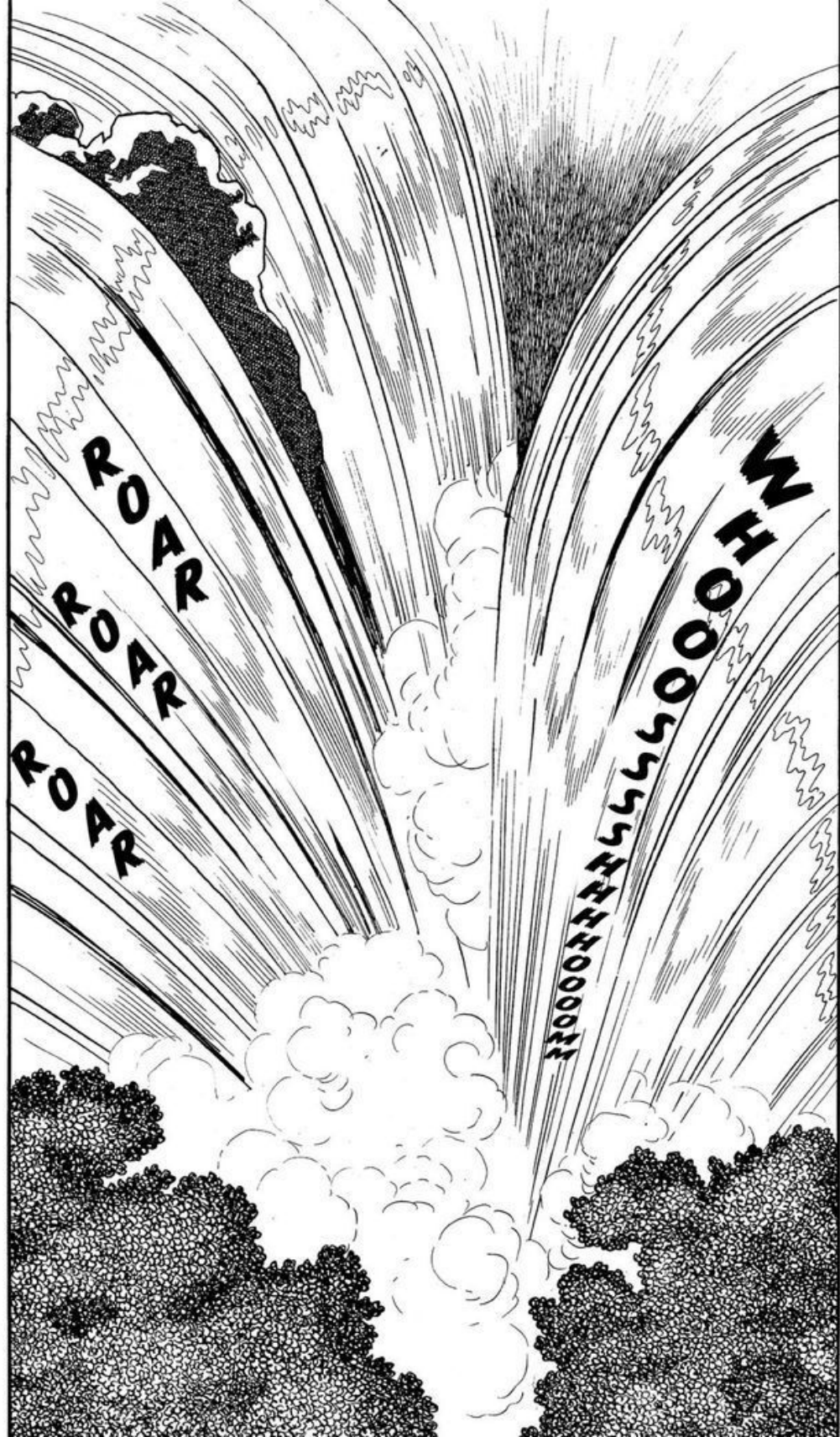


**FLASH!**

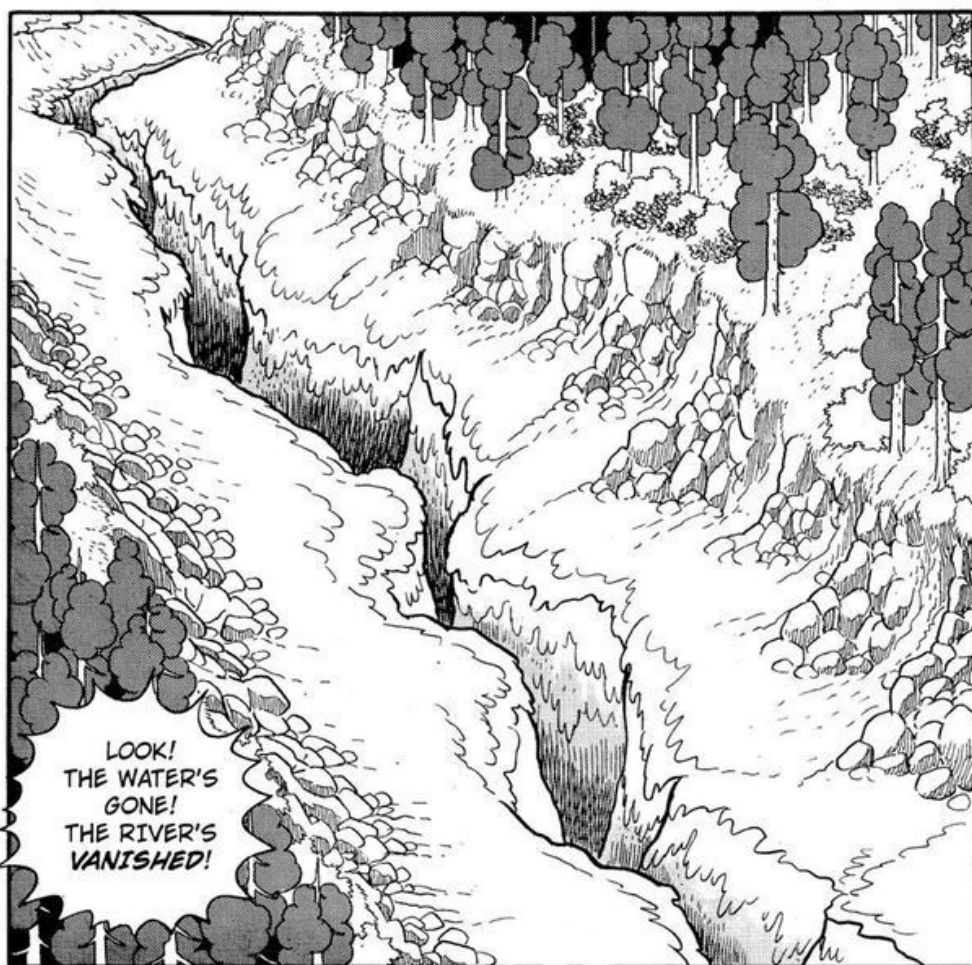
YIKES!  
RUN  
FOR IT!



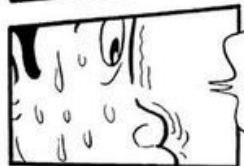
HELP! IT'S  
LIGHTNING!









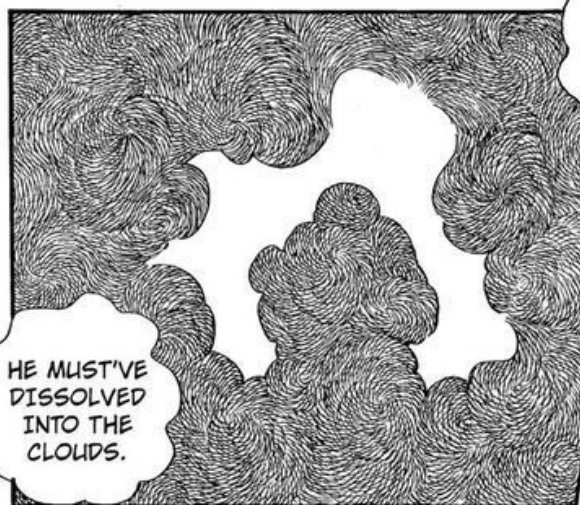


TH...THE  
VALLEY'S SPLIT  
IN TWO...THAT  
GIANT GUY IN  
THE CLOUDS  
SPLIT IT  
RIGHT DOWN  
THE CENTER!

SUCH  
TERRIBLE  
POWER...

I...  
I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS...

WHERE'D  
THAT  
DEMON  
GO?!



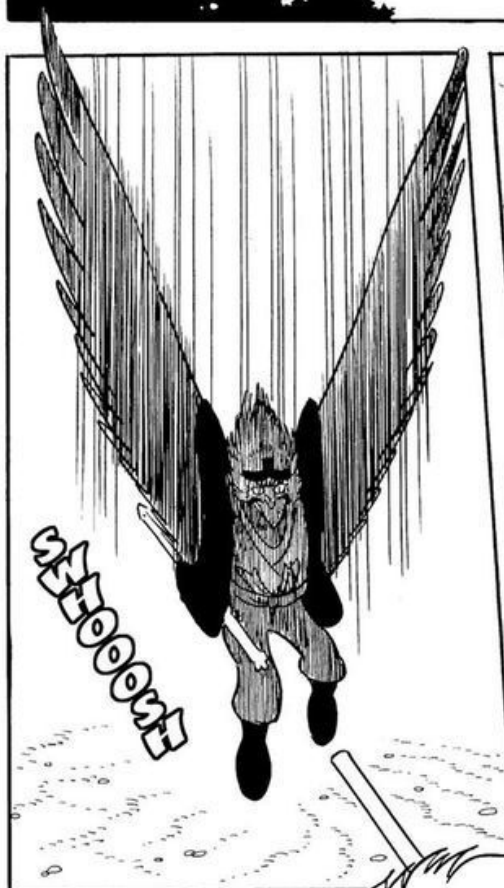
HE MUST'VE  
DISSOLVED  
INTO THE  
CLOUDS.

EVERY-  
ONE!  
GET  
BACK!



GET AWAY  
FROM THE  
RIVER!  
THERE'S  
DANGER  
HERE!





YIKES!



THERE'S  
NO NEED TO  
BE AFRAID.  
I WILL  
DO YOU  
NO HARM.

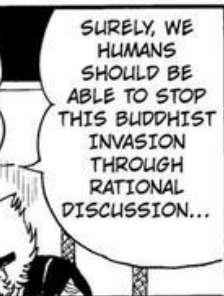
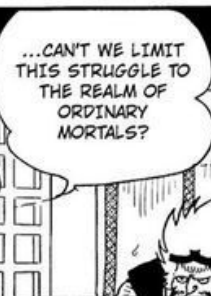
I'M HERE TO  
SEE LORD  
INUGAMI...













JUST GO AHEAD AND DO WHAT YOU WANT!  
GO TO WAR...DO SUMO WRESTLING...  
DEPLOY YOUR FORCES, SCHMORCES...  
DO WHATEVER THE CRAP YOU WANT!!  
<SOB> <SOB>



THERE,  
THERE...  
OLD  
WOMAN...  
DON'T  
CRY...



<SOB> IF I WERE  
FIFTY YEARS  
YOUNGER, I COULD  
CRY AND MAKE YOU  
TAKE PITY ON ME...  
MAKE YOU CHANGE  
YOUR MIND...  
BUT <SOB>  
I'M JUST A  
WRINKLED  
OLD HAG  
NOW...



LOOK!  
TSUFU  
DISAPPEARED  
!

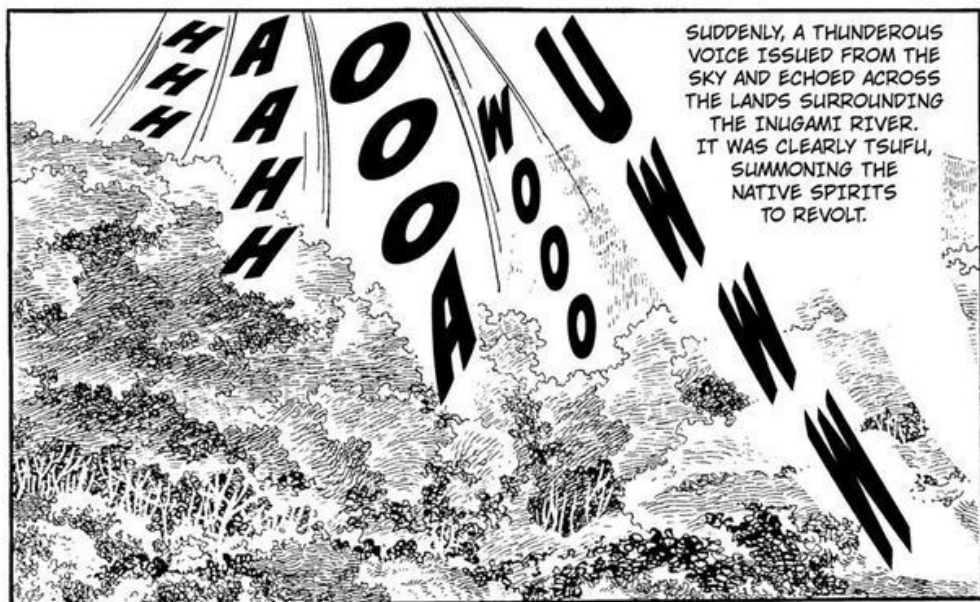


I GUESS HE  
GOT THE  
ANSWER HE  
WAS HOPING  
FOR...

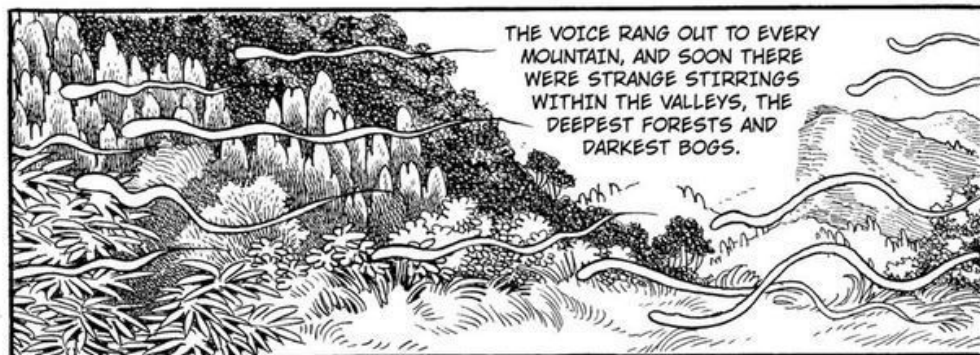


LISTEN!  
IT'S TSUFU!  
HE'S  
SPEAKING  
FROM THE  
SKY!





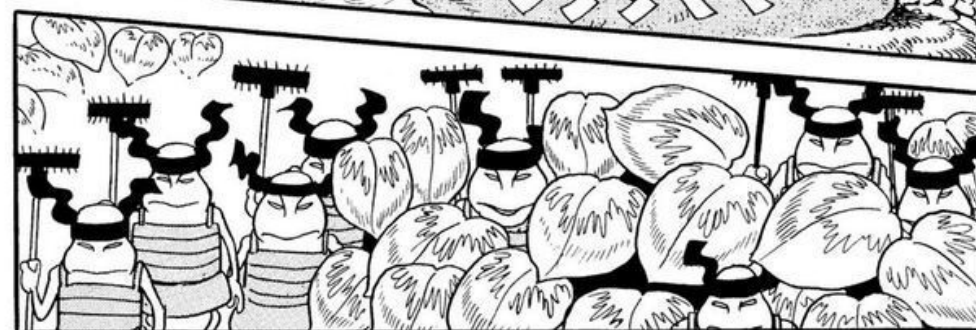
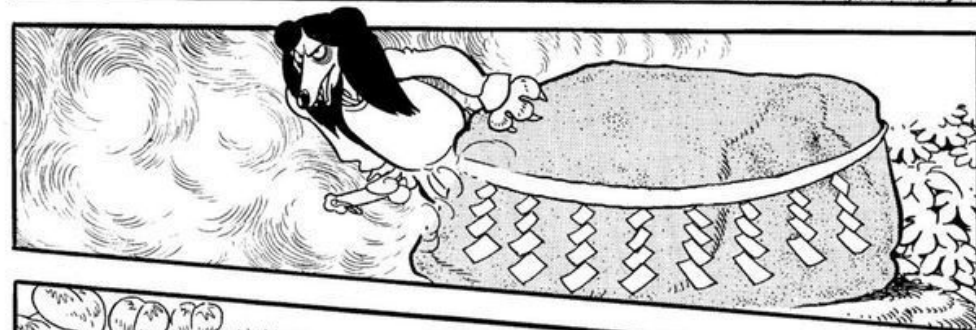
SUDDENLY, A THUNDEROUS VOICE ISSUED FROM THE SKY AND ECHOED ACROSS THE LANDS SURROUNDING THE INUGAMI RIVER. IT WAS CLEARLY TSUFU, SUMMONING THE NATIVE SPIRITS TO REVOLT.

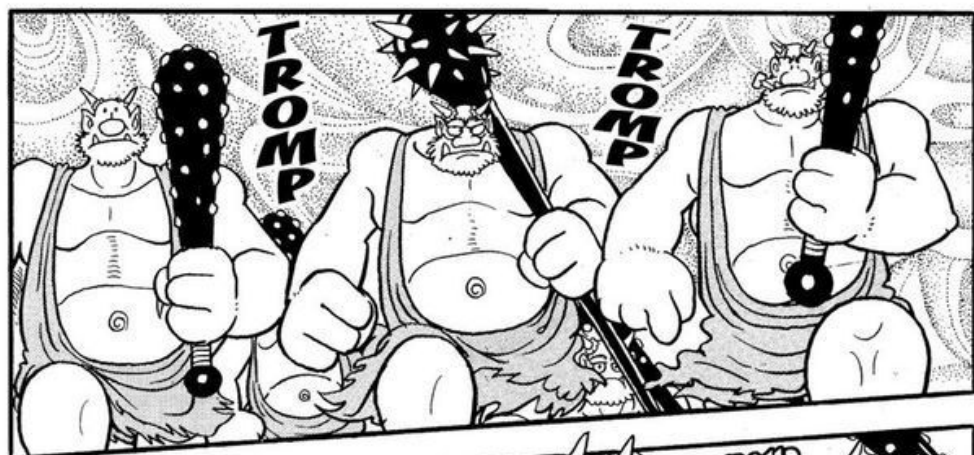


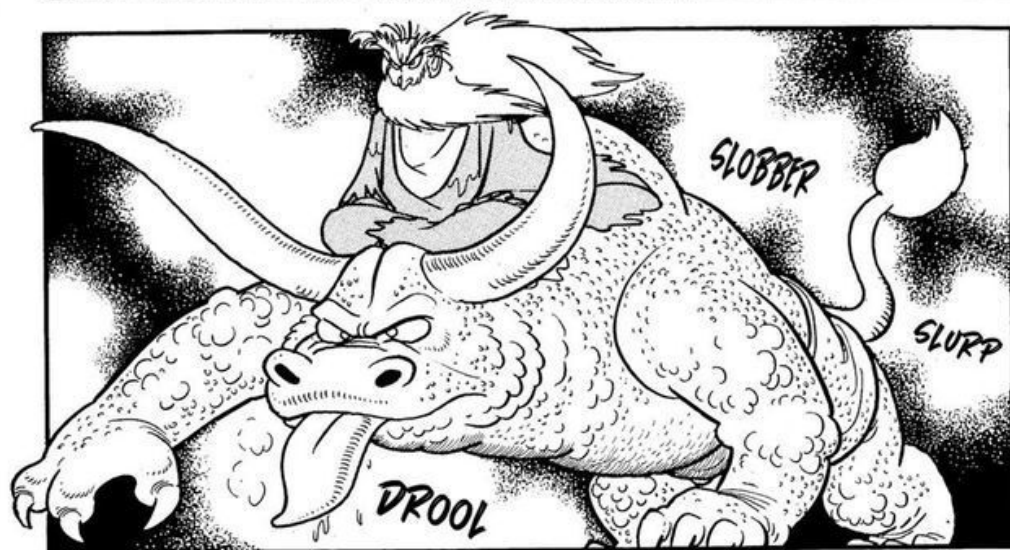
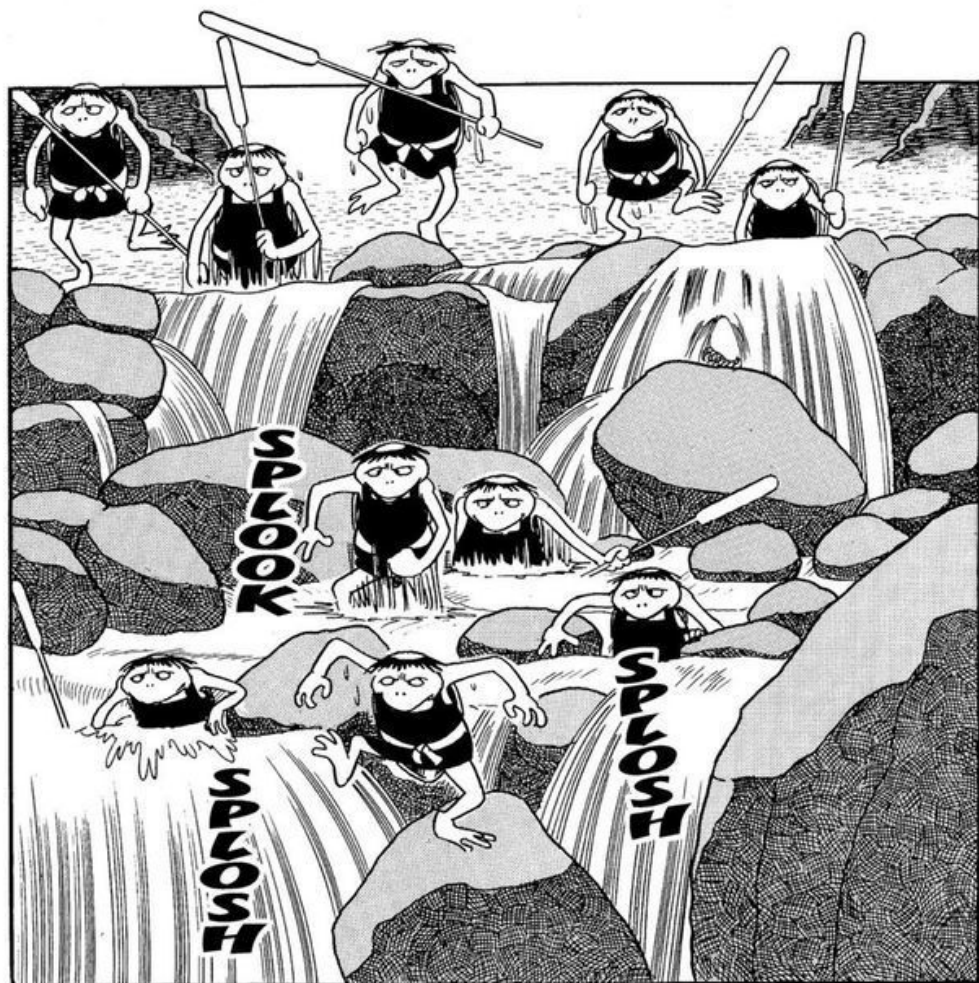
THE VOICE RANG OUT TO EVERY MOUNTAIN, AND SOON THERE WERE STRANGE STIRRINGS WITHIN THE VALLEYS, THE DEEPEST FORESTS AND DARKEST BOGS.











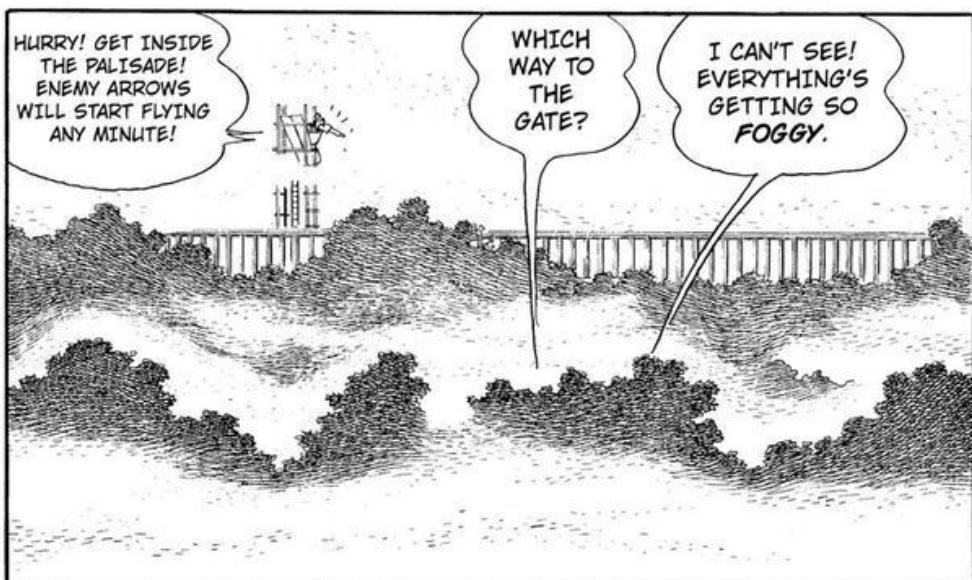




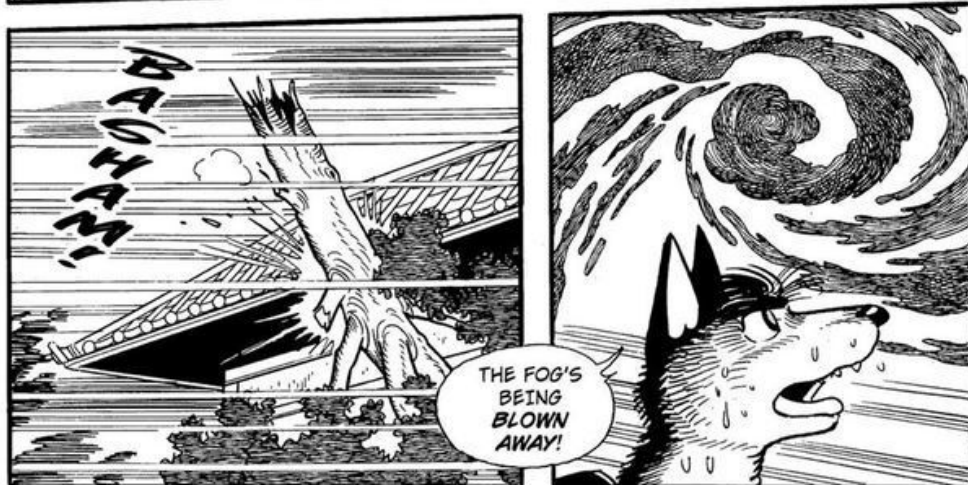


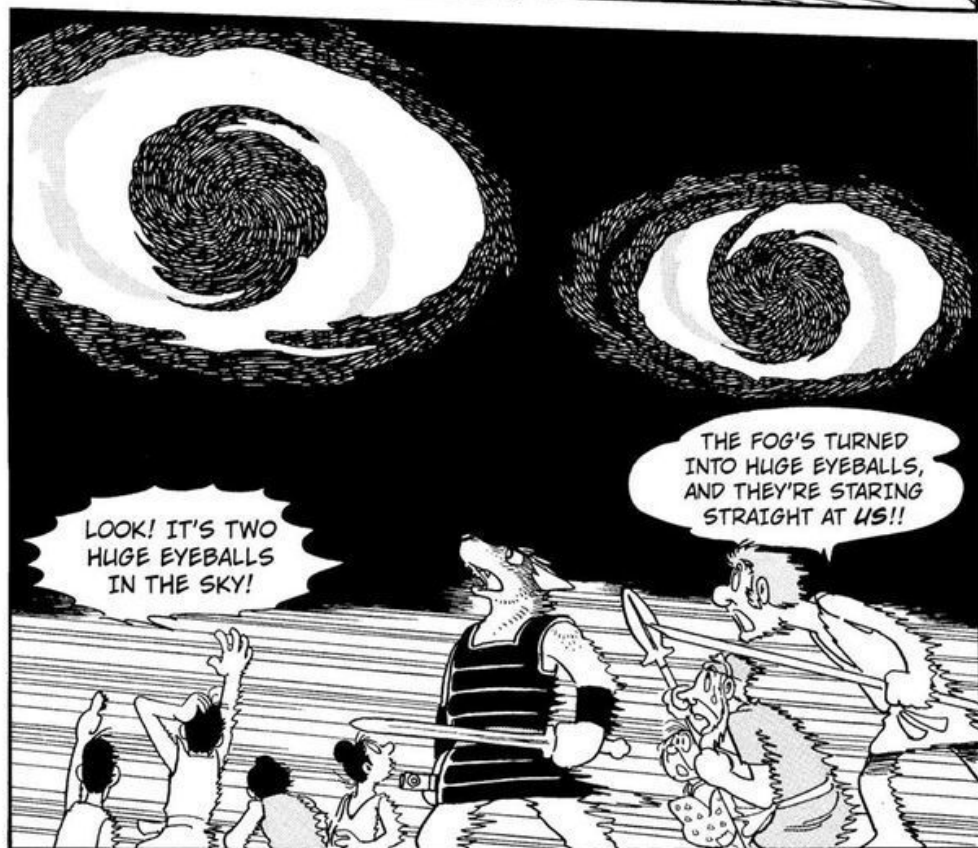
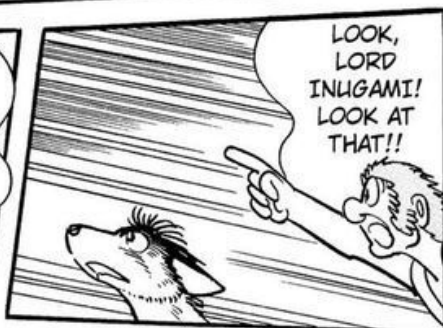




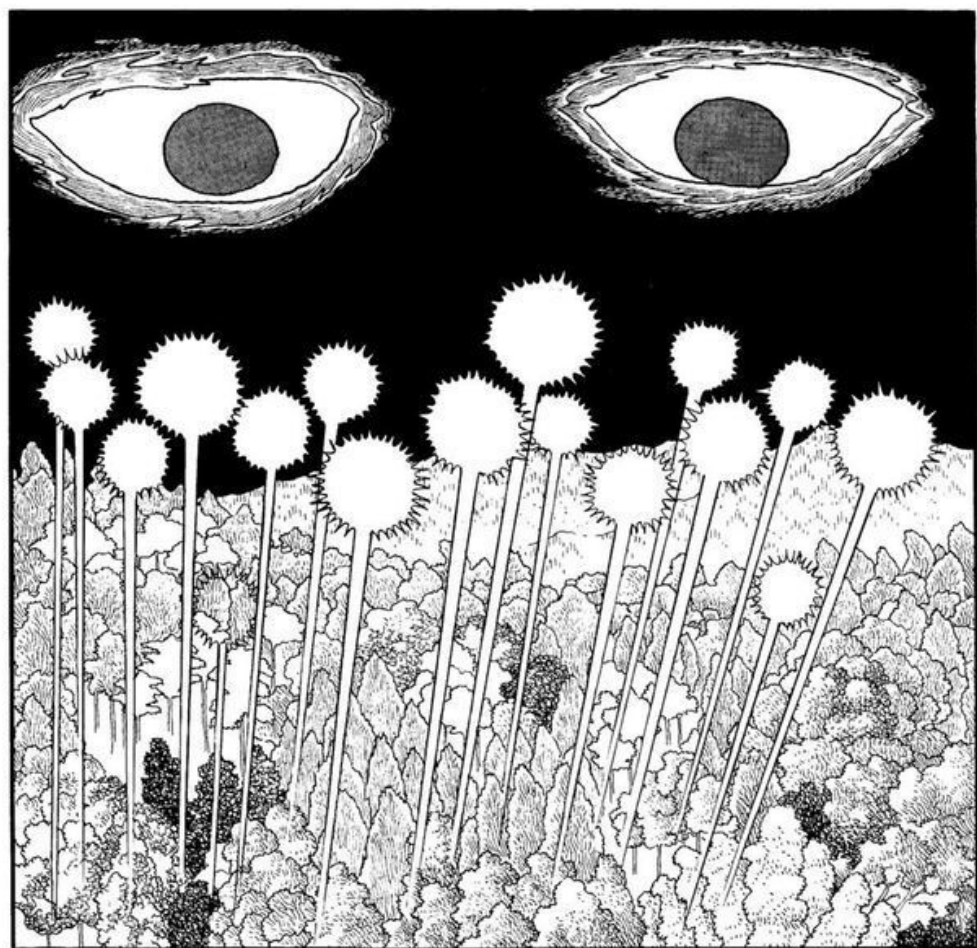


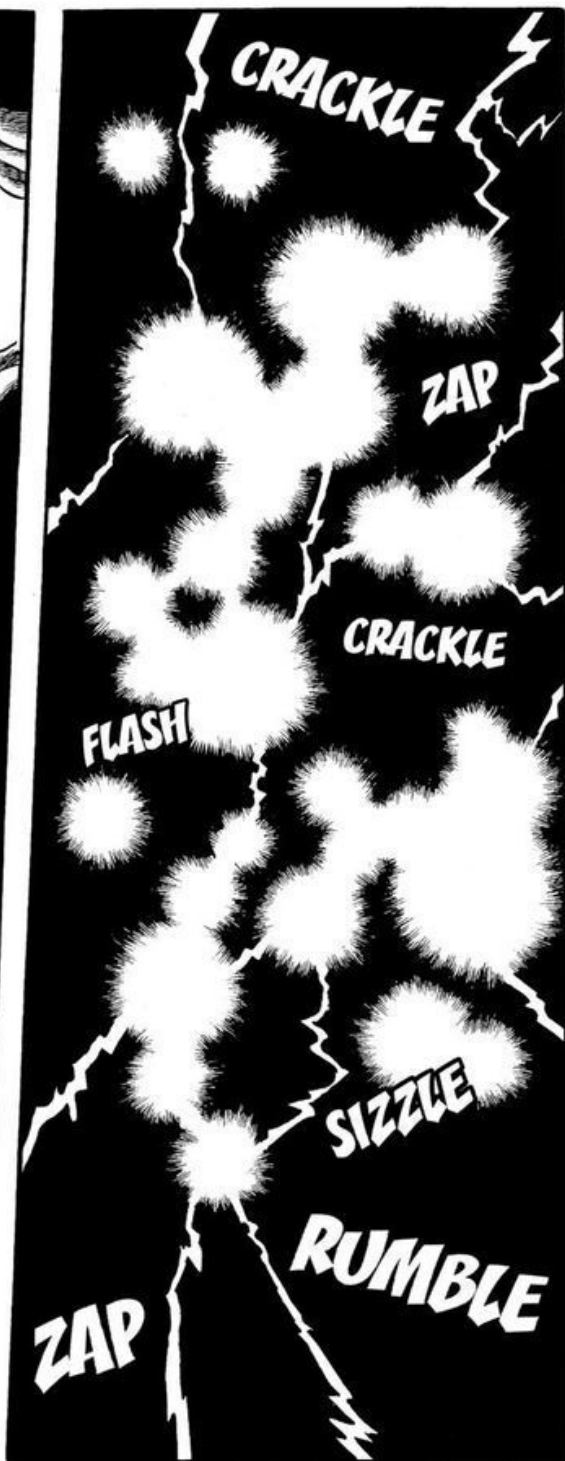
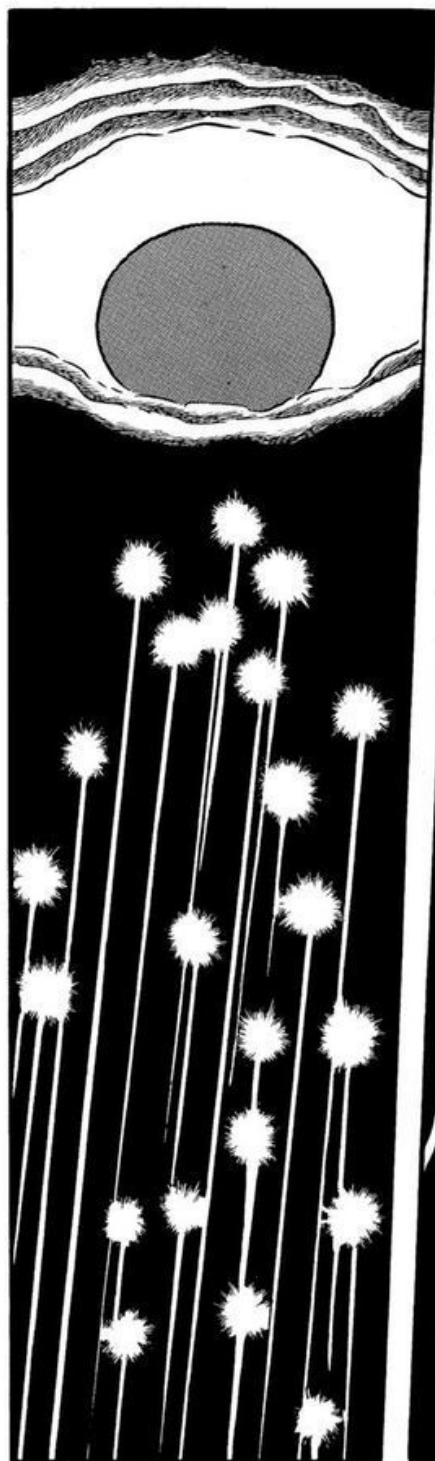






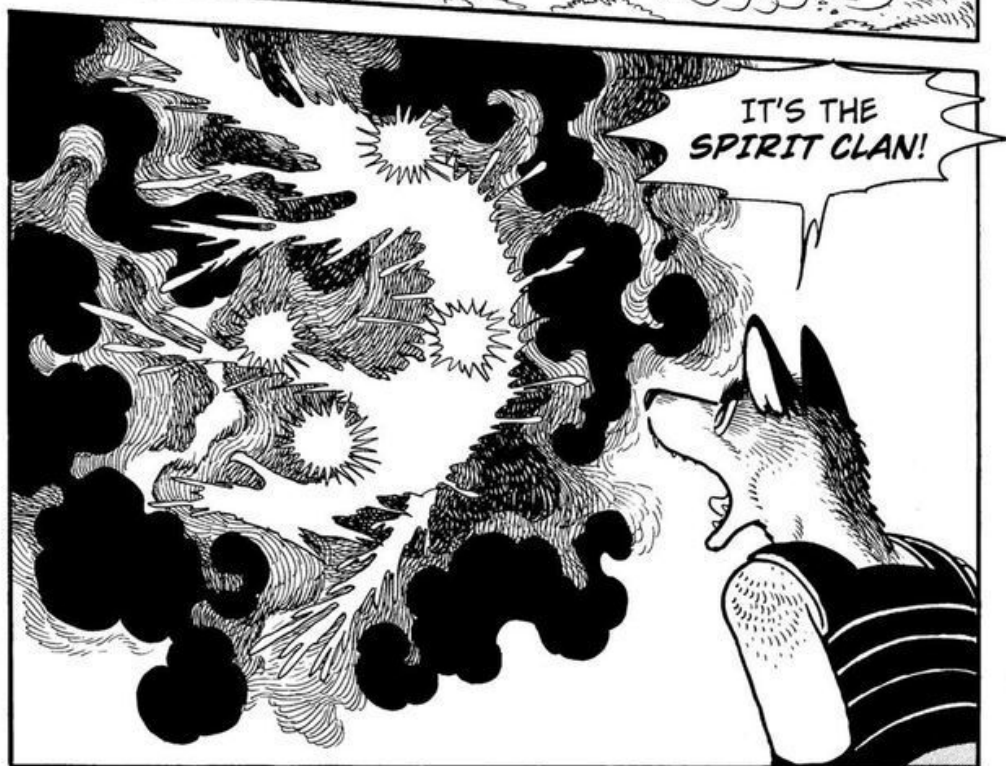










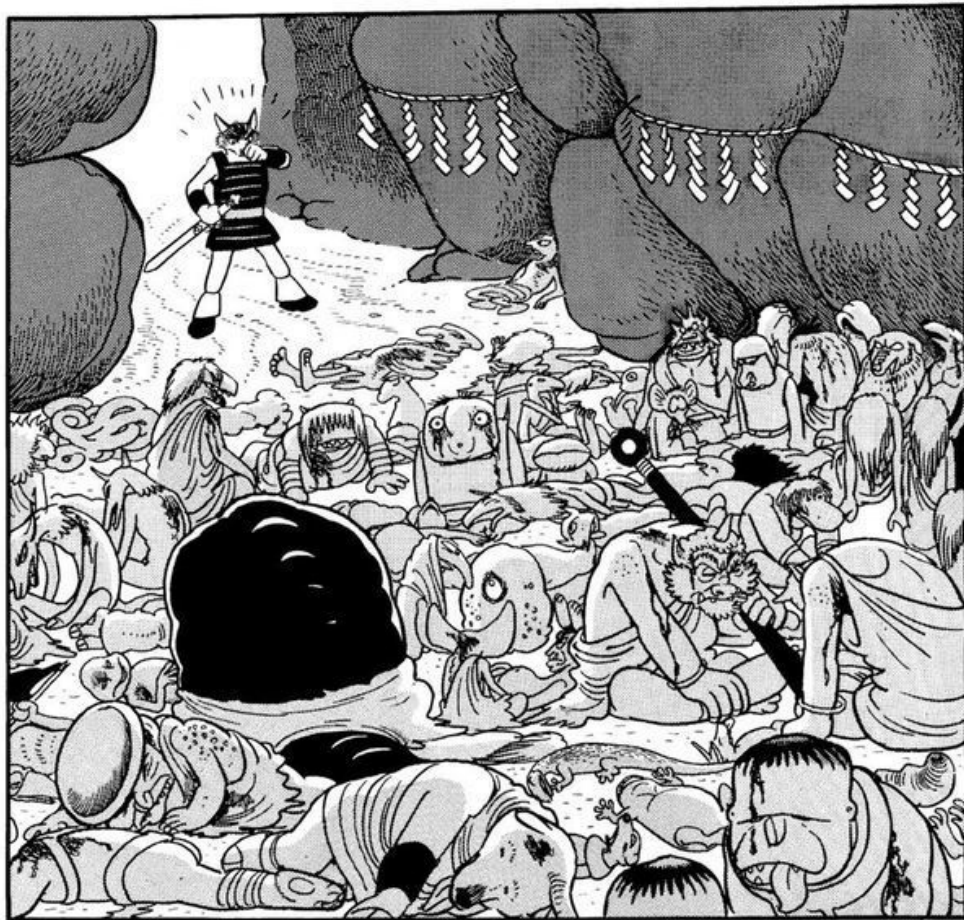




















WELL,  
WELL,  
WELL...  
IF IT  
ISN'T LORD  
INUGAMI ...

HOW  
GOOD OF  
YOU TO  
COME...

AH, LORD  
TSUFU,  
WERE YOU  
INJURED,  
TOO?



ME?  
INJURED  
...?

JUST A LITTLE  
LIMP, THAT'S  
ALL... ONLY  
FIVE OR SIX  
BONES  
BROKEN...



I DON'T KNOW  
IF WE WERE  
FACING THE  
FOUR DEVAS OR  
THE TWELVE  
WARRIORS OF  
BUDDHISM...  
BUT I MUST  
SAY, THEY  
WERE  
STRONGER  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.

EACH  
INDIVIDUAL IN  
THEIR FRONT  
LINES HAD AN  
AWESOME  
ARRAY OF  
SUPERNATURAL  
POWERS...



ALMOST  
EVERY  
MEMBER  
OF MY CLAN  
HAS BEEN  
TURNED INTO  
STONE...

AND NEARLY  
EVERY  
MEMBER OF  
MINE TO  
*DIRT*...



<SIGH>...  
IT SEEMS  
WE ARE  
NOT  
WORTHY  
OPPONENTS...



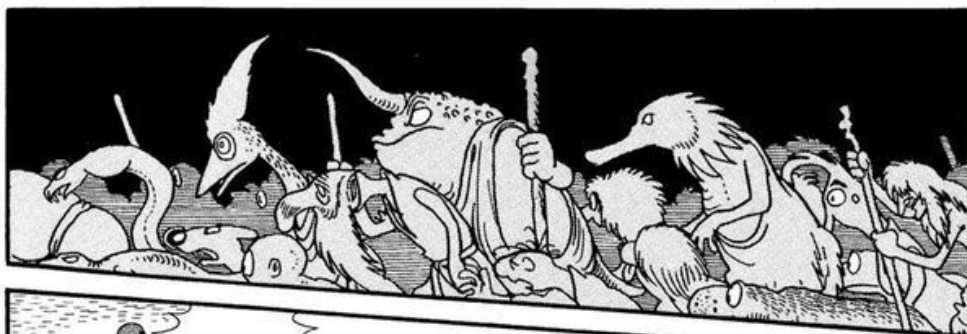
WELL,  
IF IT ISN'T  
IBUKIMARU,  
LEADER OF  
THE DEMON  
CLAN...

DID YOUR  
TEAM FARE  
ANY  
BETTER,  
GOOD  
FRIEND?

THE  
YOMIURI  
GIANTS  
WON,  
THREE  
TO ONE.  
BUT THE  
CHUNICHI  
DRAGONS  
PUT UP  
A GOOD  
FIGHT.

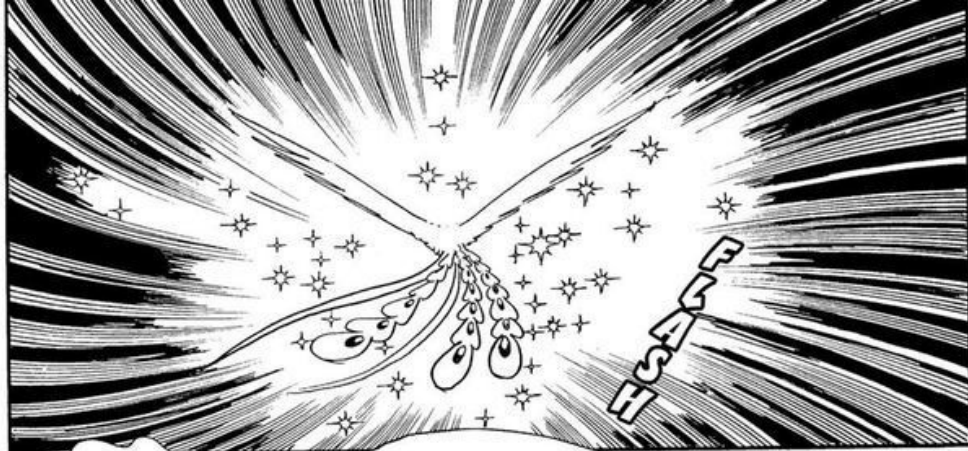




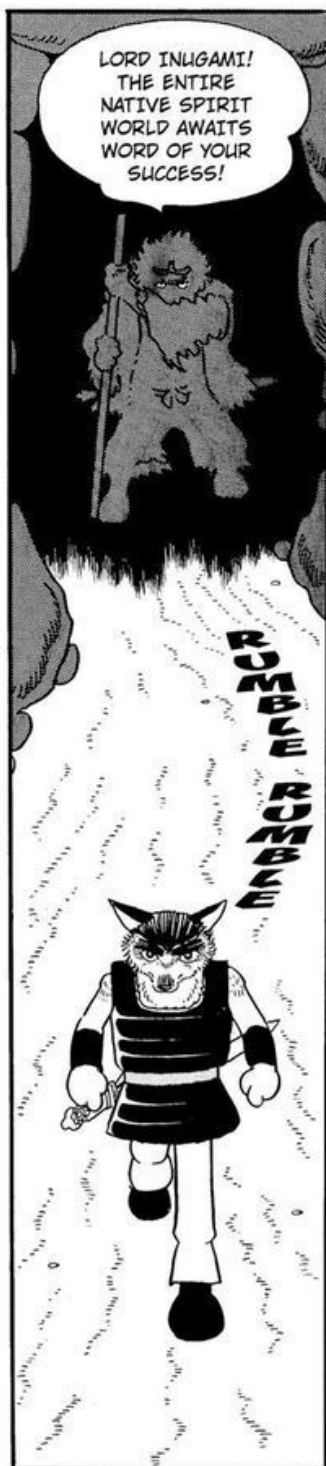












RUMBLE  
RUMBLE  
RUMBLE

THUNDER  
RUMBLE  
RUMBLE

SO YOU'RE  
STILL  
GRUMBING,  
EH, YOU GODS  
OF THUNDER?

PUT DOWN YOUR  
ARMS, BUDDHIST  
SPIRIT WARRIORS,  
AND GO BACK TO THE  
PLACE YOU CAME  
FROM. I DECLARE  
A TRUCE!  
I'M SURRENDERING  
TO YOU!

TRAMP  
TRAMP  
TRAMP

THE  
IMPERIAL  
TROOPS...  
THEY'RE  
COMING...







CAPTAIN, SIR!  
THERE'S A WOLF-  
LIKE CREATURE  
OVER HERE!

AND HE'S SAYIN'  
SOMETHIN' IN  
JAPANESE!



LOOK HERE,  
YOU LOU!  
TRYING TO  
BLOCK OUR  
WAY, ARE YOU?

I AM INUGAMI  
SUKUNE. I HAVE  
PUT DOWN MY  
WEAPONS, AND I AM  
SURRENDERING TO  
YOU GENTLEMEN.  
I HUMBLY BESEECH  
YOU TO SPARE  
MY VILLAGE.



HURRY UP  
AND CUT  
HIM DOWN!

HOLD  
ON  
THERE,  
CAPTAIN.



INUGAMI!  
IT'S ME,  
IKI NO  
FUBITO!  
DO YOU TRULY  
INTEND TO  
SURRENDER  
THIS TIME?  
AND IF SO,  
STATE YOUR  
REASON!?



I HAVE NO  
PARTICULAR  
REASON. I  
SIMPLY WANT  
TO GIVE  
MYSELF UP  
TO PREVENT  
FURTHER  
NEEDLESS  
BLOODSHED.  
TAKE ME  
AS YOUR  
PRISONER!



OH...  
I THINK  
THERE'S  
MORE TO  
IT THAN  
THAT,  
INUGAMI...

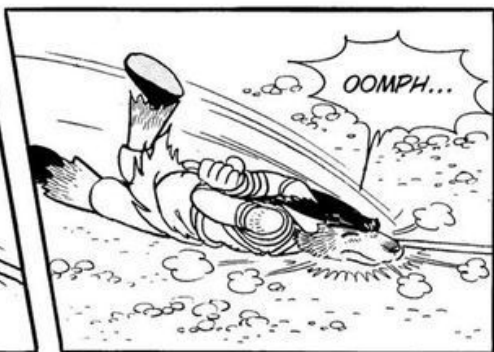
...YOU NEVER  
WOULD HAVE  
RESISTED SO  
HARD, ONLY  
TO SUDDENLY  
ALLOW  
YOURSELF TO  
BE TAKEN...



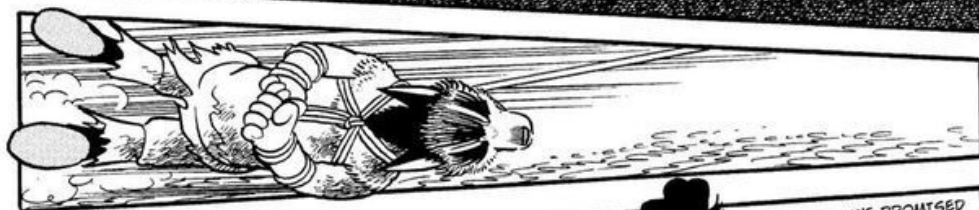
THIS IS  
SOME  
KIND OF  
NEW  
TACTIC,  
ISN'T IT?

NOTHING  
OF THE  
KIND...





HAR HAR HAR HAR HAR



HA HA HA HA

DOESN'T PUT  
UP MUCH  
FIGHT FOR A  
WOLF, DOES  
HE? WHA HA  
HA HA!

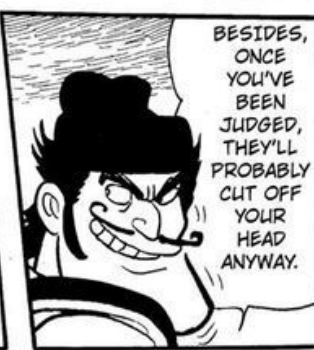
UH, CAPTAIN... WE PROMISED  
TO DELIVER HIM IN GOOD  
CONDITION, DIDN'T WE?

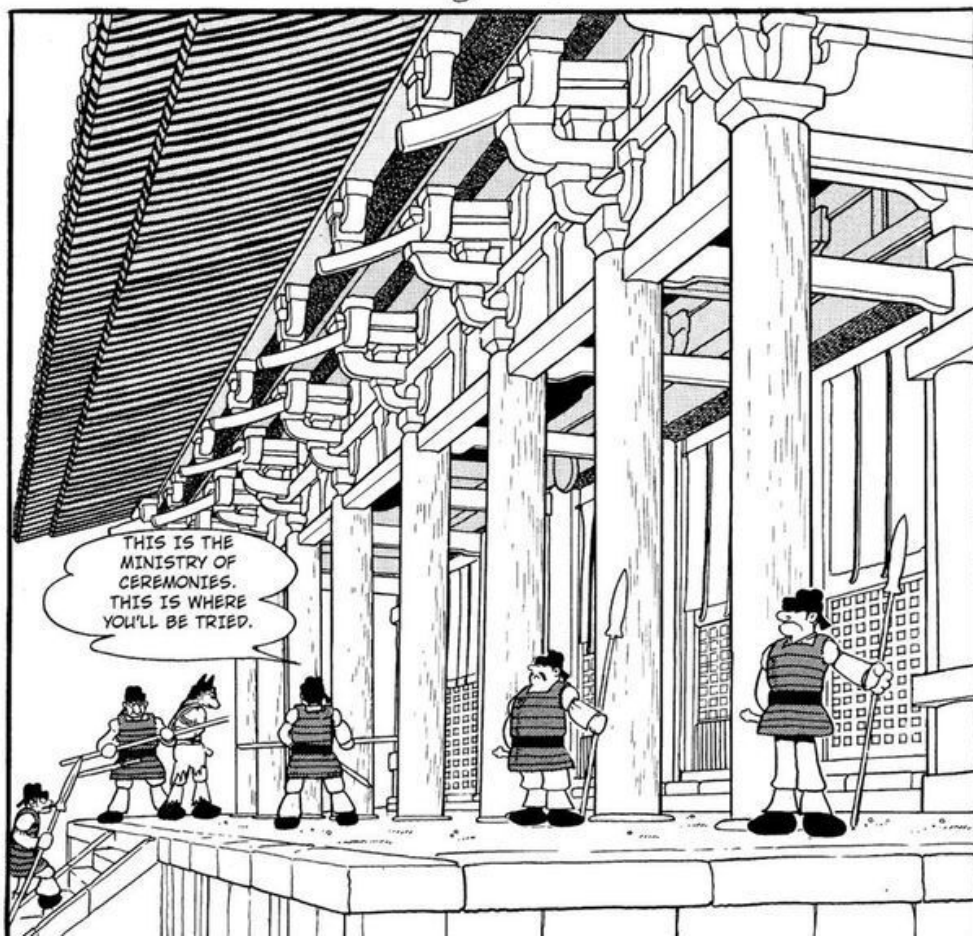


DON'T  
WORRY. I'M  
NOT GOING  
TO KILL YOU,  
WOLF-MAN.  
YOU'LL MAKE  
IT THERE  
ALIVE, BUT  
YOU'LL  
PROBABLY  
WISH YOU  
DIDN'T...

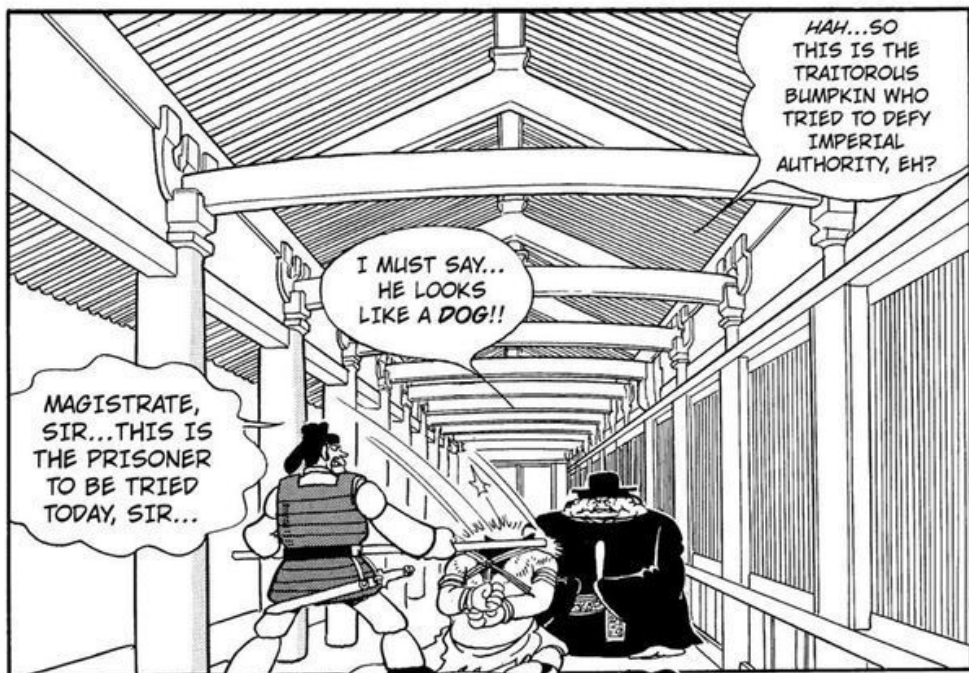


BESIDES,  
ONCE  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
JUDGED,  
THEY'LL  
PROBABLY  
CUT OFF  
YOUR  
HEAD  
ANYWAY.





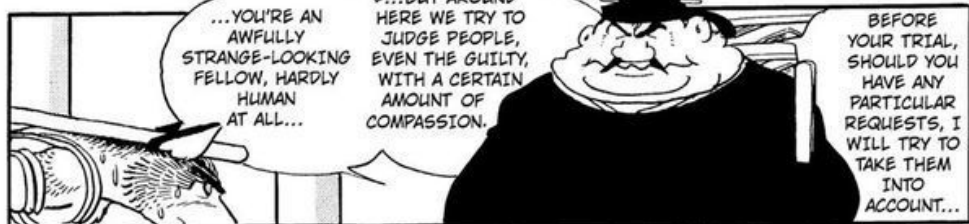




HAH...SO  
THIS IS THE  
TRAITOROUS  
BUMPKIN WHO  
TRIED TO DEFY  
IMPERIAL  
AUTHORITY, EH?

I MUST SAY...  
HE LOOKS  
LIKE A DOG!!

MAGISTRATE,  
SIR...THIS IS  
THE PRISONER  
TO BE TRIED  
TODAY, SIR...



...YOU'RE AN  
AWFULLY  
STRANGE-LOOKING  
FELLOW, HARDLY  
HUMAN  
AT ALL...

...BUT AROUND  
HERE WE TRY TO  
JUDGE PEOPLE,  
EVEN THE GUILTY,  
WITH A CERTAIN  
AMOUNT OF  
COMPASSION.

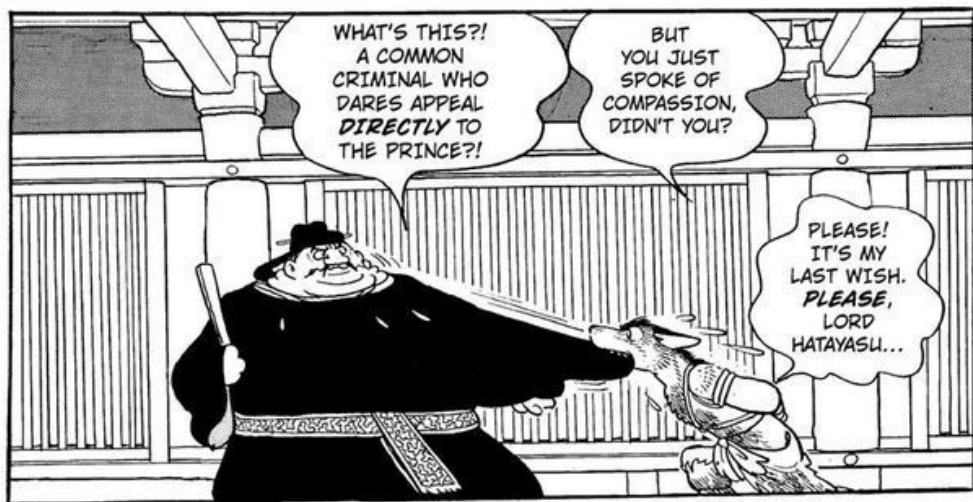
BEFORE  
YOUR TRIAL,  
SHOULD YOU  
HAVE ANY  
PARTICULAR  
REQUESTS, I  
WILL TRY TO  
TAKE THEM  
INTO  
ACCOUNT...



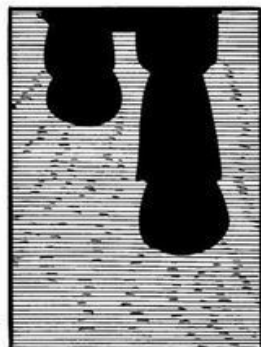
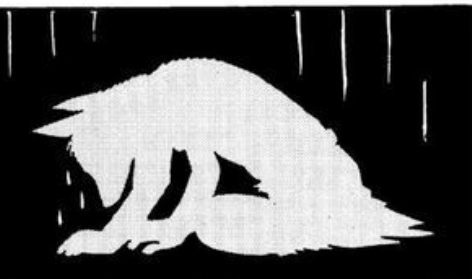
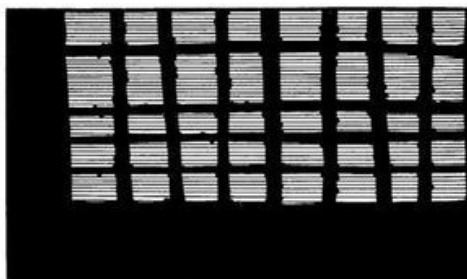
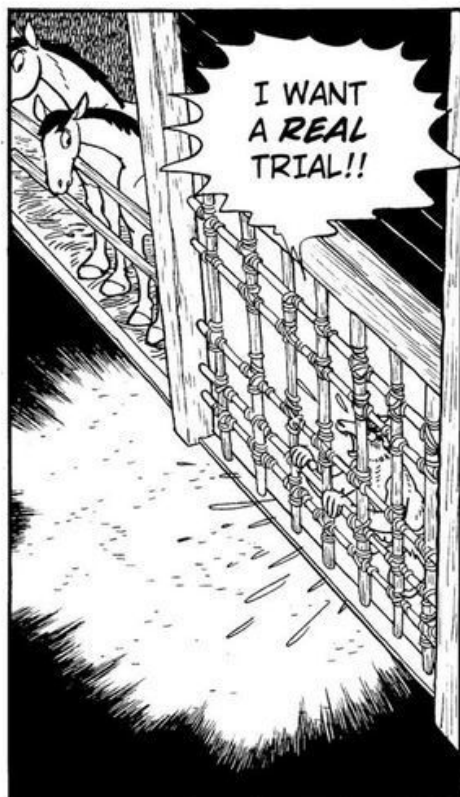
WH...WHO  
ARE...YOU?

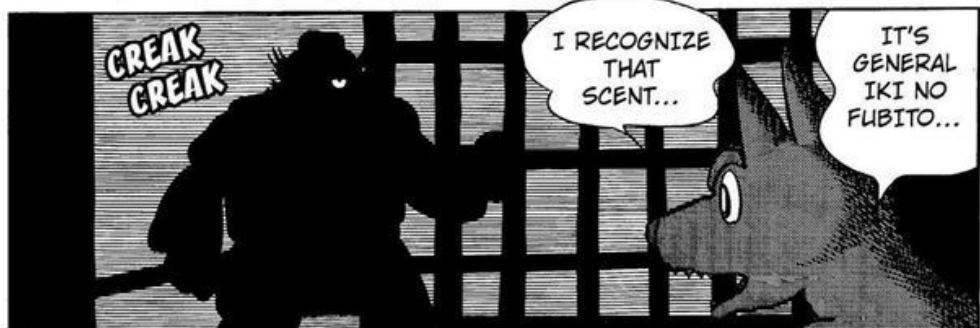


I'M SOGA NO  
OMIHATAYASHI...  
THE TOP ADVISOR  
TO HIS MAJESTY,  
PRINCE OTOMO...











INUGAMI! THE  
ROOSTER'S CROW AT  
SUNRISE TOMORROW IS  
THE SIGNAL FOR YOU  
TO BE **BEHEADED**...  
DID YOU KNOW THAT?



I...I'M  
TO BE  
EXECUTED  
IN THE  
**MORNING**  
?!

B...BUT I  
HAVEN'T  
EVEN BEEN  
FORMALLY  
**SENTENCED**  
YET!



I'M ONLY A  
SOLDIER, NOT A  
MAGISTRATE, SO  
I REALLY DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
THESE  
MATTERS ARE  
CONDUCTED...



I'M SORRY,  
BUT  
THERE'S  
NOTHING I  
CAN DO.

B...BUT I  
CAN'T DIE!  
NOT NOW!!



I CAN'T  
DIE  
LIKE A  
DOG!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?  
YOU ARE  
A DOG!!

THAT'S FAR  
TOO MUCH  
TO ASK,  
INUGAMI...

BUT IF I'D  
KNOWN I  
WOULDN'T BE  
ABLE TO MEET  
HIM, I NEVER  
WOULD HAVE  
SURREN-  
DERED IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE!

AH, SO  
THAT  
WAS  
IT!

YOU  
WANTED  
TO BE  
BROUGHT  
HERE,  
EH?

I KNEW  
THERE HAD  
TO BE  
REASON...

YOU CRAZY  
FOOL. DID YOU  
ACTUALLY THINK  
A PRISONER  
WHO'S BEEN  
SENTENCED TO  
DEATH WOULD  
GET AN  
AUDIENCE WITH  
HIS MAJESTY,  
THE CROWN  
PRINCE?

WELL, IF I'M  
TO DIE, AT  
LEAST ALLOW ME  
TO SEE PRINCE  
OTOMO! I WANT  
TO RECEIVE MY  
LAST BUDDHIST  
RITES.

IF THAT WAS YOUR  
PLAN ALL ALONG,  
WHY DIDN'T YOU  
CONFIDE IN ME  
FROM THE START?  
I WOULD HAVE  
HEARD YOU OUT.





COME ON!  
GET UP! YOU  
HAVE AN  
AUDIENCE  
WITH THE  
CROWN  
PRINCE!



WHAT?!  
WITH THE  
PRINCE  
?!

OF COURSE,  
WHO ELSE?  
AFTER SOME  
ARM TWISTING  
HE AGREED TO  
MEET WITH YOU,  
BUT ONLY FOR A  
FEW MOMENTS.



YOU ASKED  
HIM, FOR  
ME?!

YOU SEEM  
SURPRISED,  
INUGAMI, BUT  
IN TRUTH THE  
PRINCE SEEMED  
EVEN MORE  
SURPRISED TO  
HEAR ABOUT  
YOU...

...WHEN HE  
HEARD THERE  
WAS A REQUEST  
FROM A MAN  
WITH A WOLF'S  
HEAD, HE WAS  
ACTUALLY THE  
FIRST TO  
SUGGEST A  
MEETING.

YOU'RE  
ONE HELL  
OF A LUCKY  
MAN,  
INUGAMI.

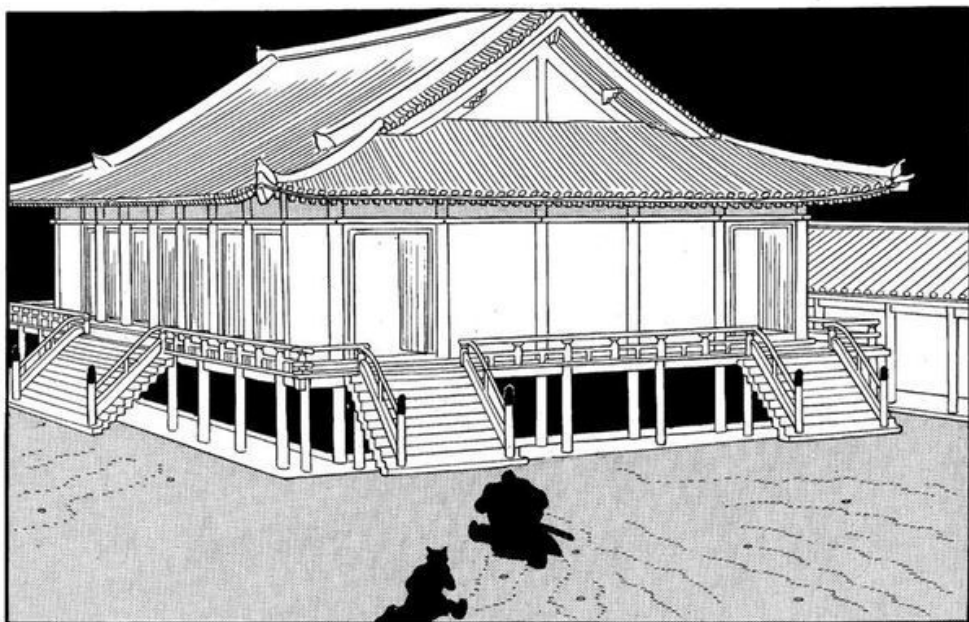
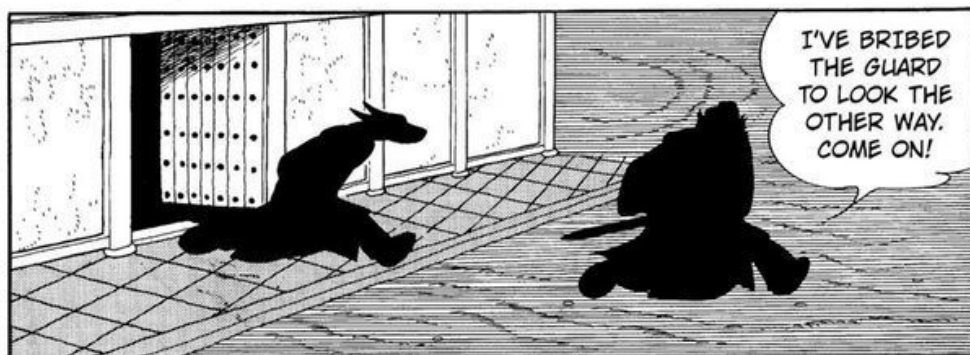


I...I'M  
FOREVER  
IN YOUR  
DEBT,  
GENERAL.

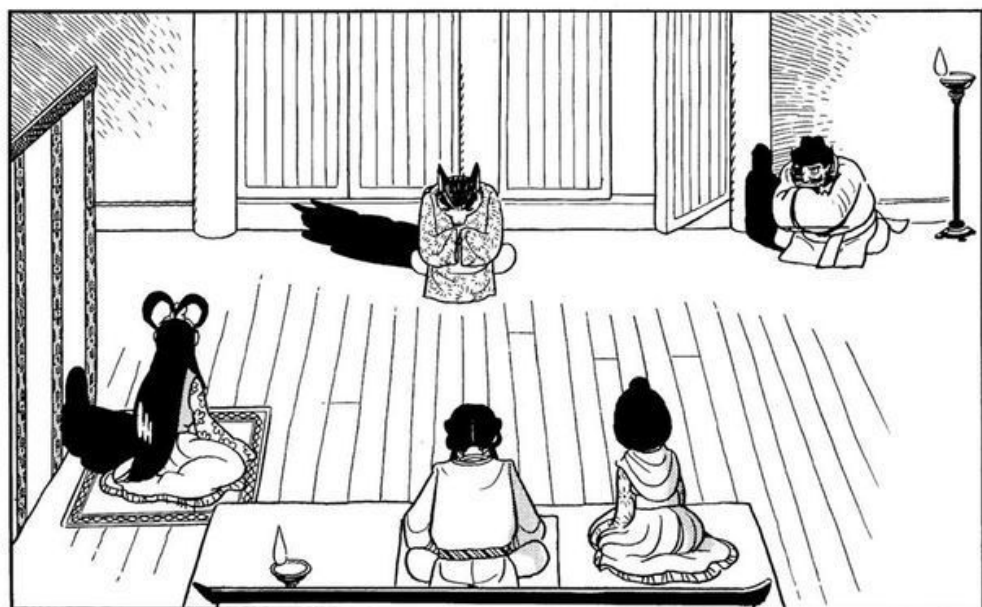
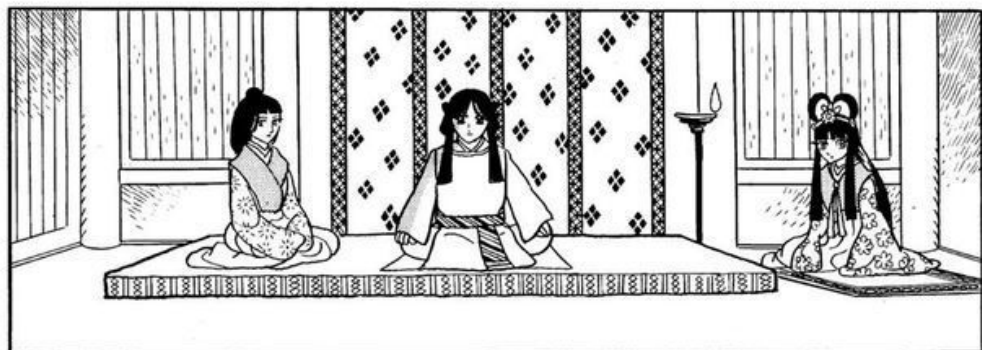
THERE'S NO  
TIME TO  
WASTE.  
WE'VE GOT  
TO GO TO  
THE PALACE  
NOW!

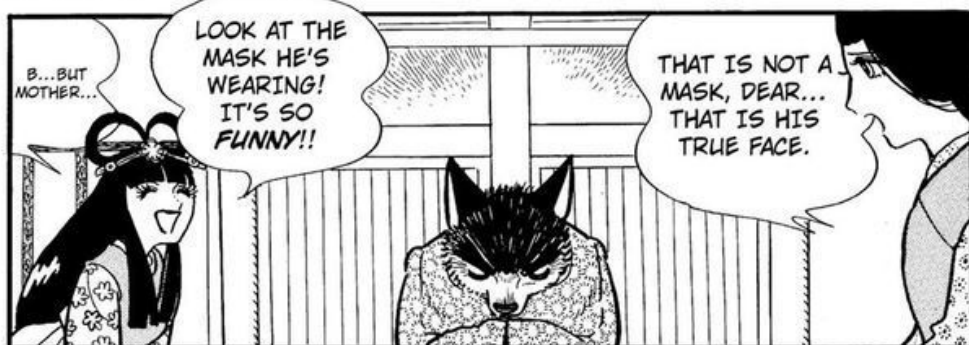


YOU CAN'T  
GO LIKE  
THAT,  
THOUGH.  
HERE!  
PUT  
THESE  
CLOTHES  
ON!











AND  
ANOTHER  
QUESTION,  
IF I MAY...  
DO YOU  
HAVE A  
TAIL?



MOTHER! PLEASE!  
WE CAN DO  
WITHOUT SUCH  
FRIVOLOUS  
QUESTIONS.

THIS MAN  
HASN'T  
THE TIME  
FOR  
SUCH  
CHATTER.



IT IS LATE,  
INUGAMI SUKUNE.  
TELL ME...WHAT  
IS IT YOU HAVE  
COME HERE FOR?

DO YOU  
WISH TO  
PLEAD FOR  
YOUR LIFE?



YOUR  
HIGH-  
NESS...

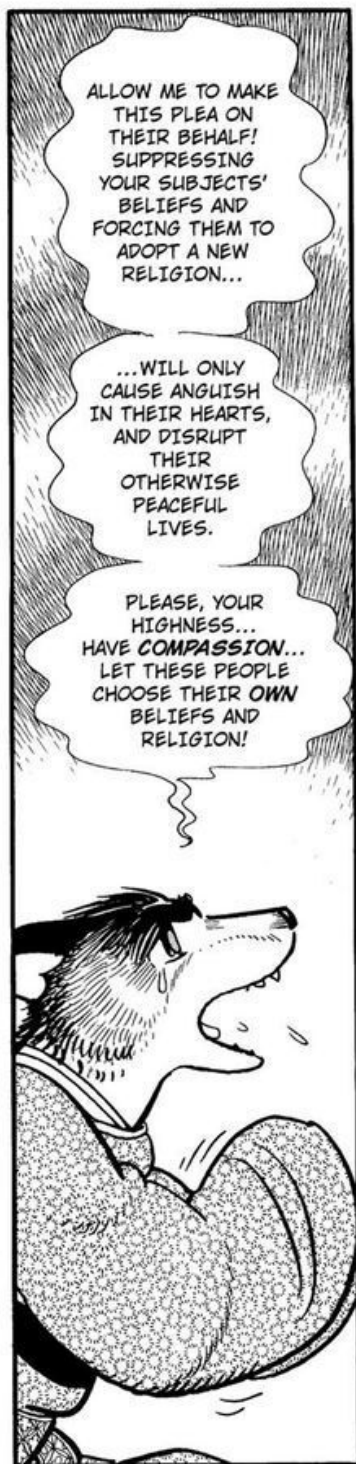
FAR TO THE  
EAST OF  
THE  
CAPITAL  
THERE ARE  
MANY LANDS  
AND MANY  
VILLAGES.



BUT THESE PEOPLE  
ARE NOW BEING  
FORCED TO BUILD  
TEMPLES IN EVERY  
DISTRICT AND TO  
CONVERT TO  
**BUDDHISM...**  
BY **IMPERIAL  
ORDER!**



AND THE  
PEOPLE OF  
THOSE  
LANDS  
MAINTAIN  
VARIOUS  
BELIEFS  
AND  
RITUALS.





YOU ARE A  
BRAVE AND  
NOBLE MAN,  
INUGAMI...



I FULLY UNDERSTAND  
YOUR WILLINGNESS  
TO RISK YOUR LIFE  
TO CAUTION ME.  
I RECOGNIZE THE  
SINCERITY OF YOUR  
PLEA. I FEEL THE  
SAME WAY...



...IF I COULD, I  
WOULD REWARD  
YOUR  
SELFLESSNESS...

...BUT...

...UNFORTUNATELY,  
I AM UNABLE TO  
GRANT YOUR  
WISH.

WHAT  
?!

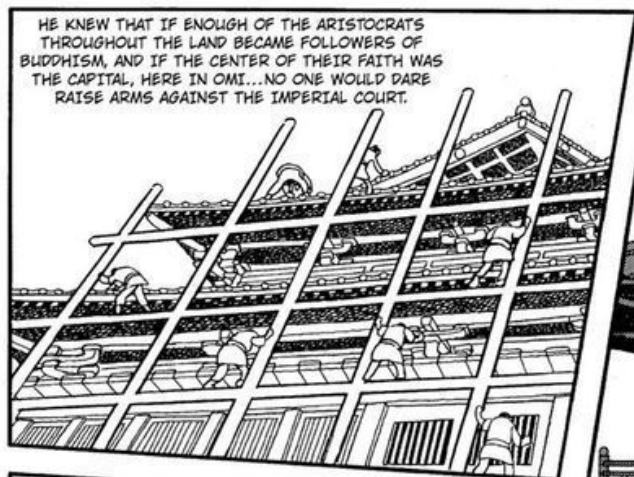


LISTEN  
WELL,  
INUGAMI  
SUKUNE.

IT WAS MY  
FATHER WHO  
DECIDED TO  
SPREAD THE  
BUDDHIST  
FAITH...

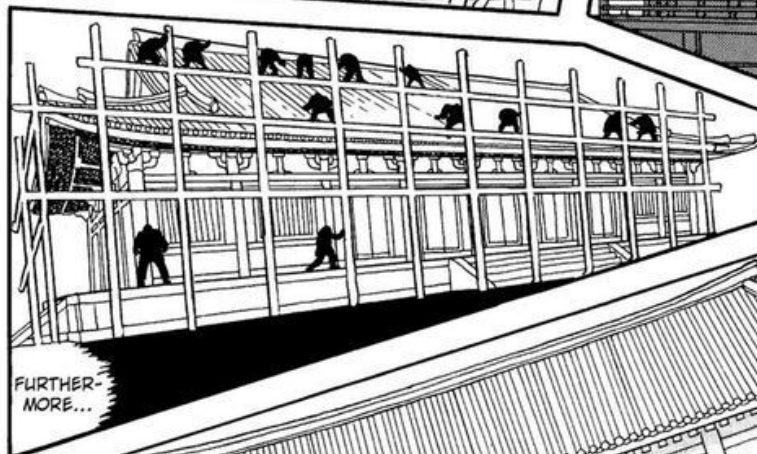
AND THE  
REASON  
FOR HIS  
DECISION  
IS THAT...





IN OTHER WORDS, A SIMPLE FAITH...

...COULD BE USED TO UNIFY A NATION, WITHOUT BLOODSHED.



SO, SPREADING  
BUDDHISM IS  
PART OF OUR  
STRATEGY. IT  
HAS NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
RELIGION. IT  
IS A PURELY  
**POLITICAL**  
DECISION.

I PERSONALLY  
PREFER NOT TO PUSH  
THIS MATTER TOO FIRMLY,  
BUT MY ADVISORS AND  
THE BUDDHIST PRIESTS  
WOULD OPPOSE ANY  
RELAXATION OF THE  
EXISTING EDICTS.



SO  
THERE  
YOU  
HAVE  
IT.



YOU  
MUST  
ACCEPT  
THIS  
REALITY.



I AM SORRY,  
INUGAMI  
SUKUNE.



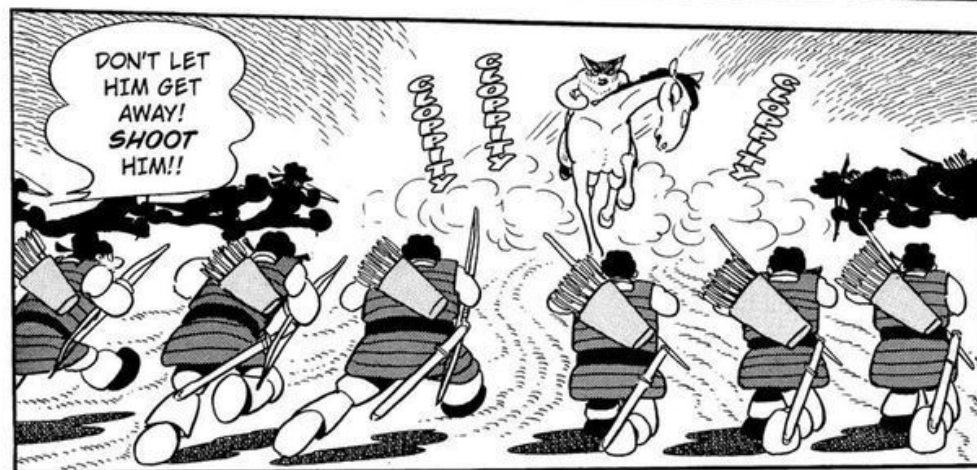


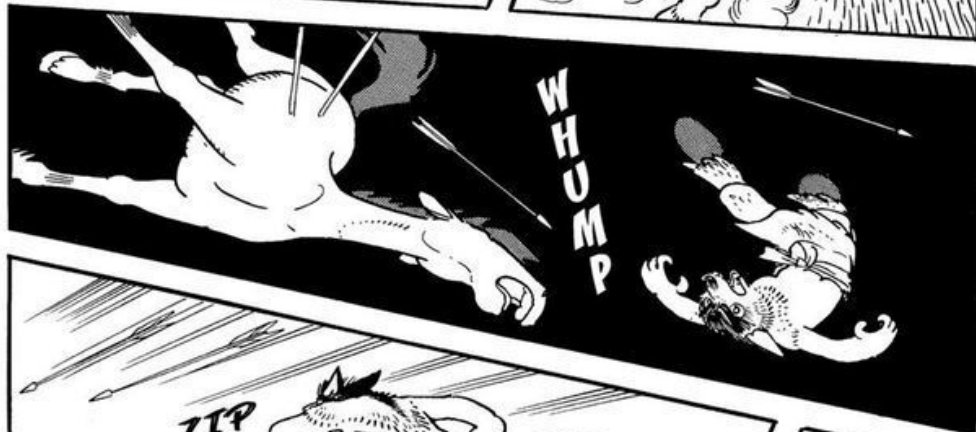
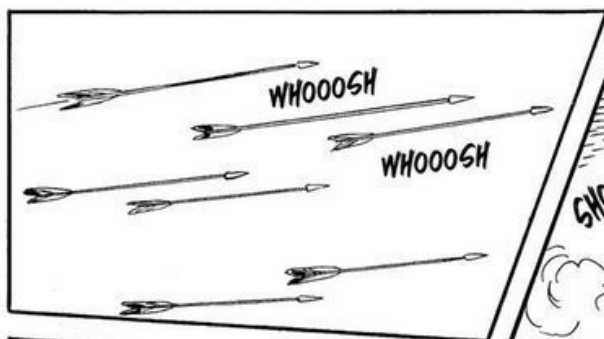








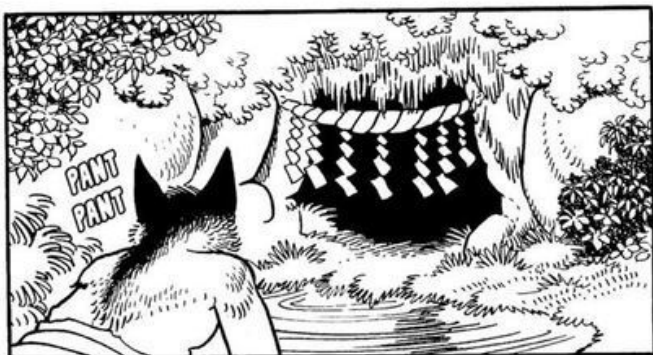


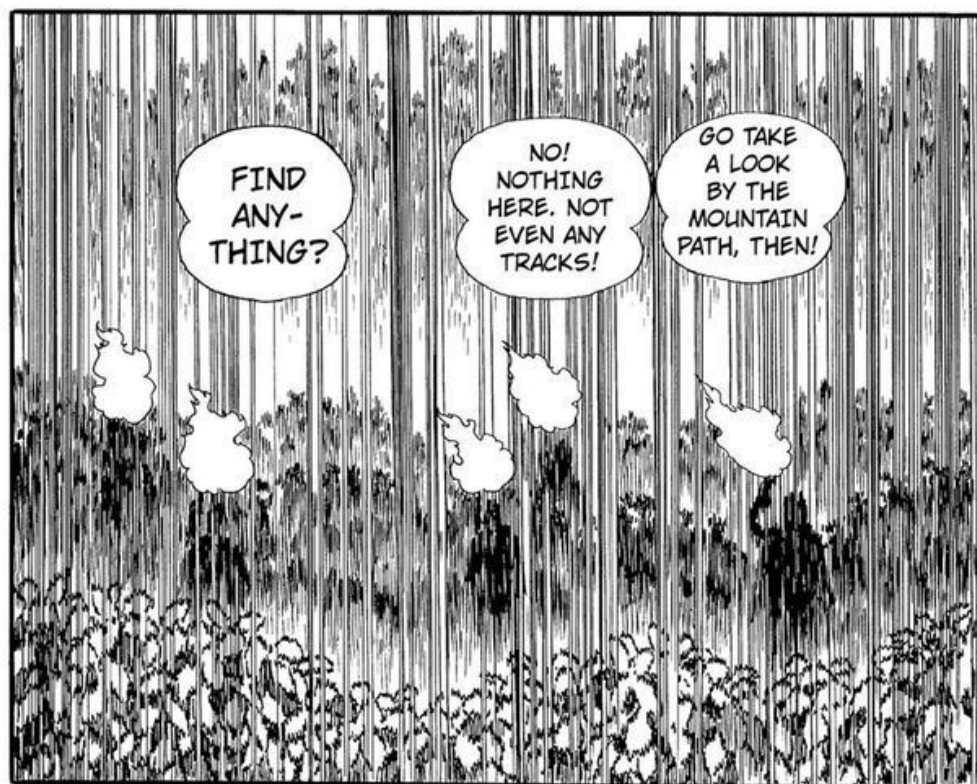


















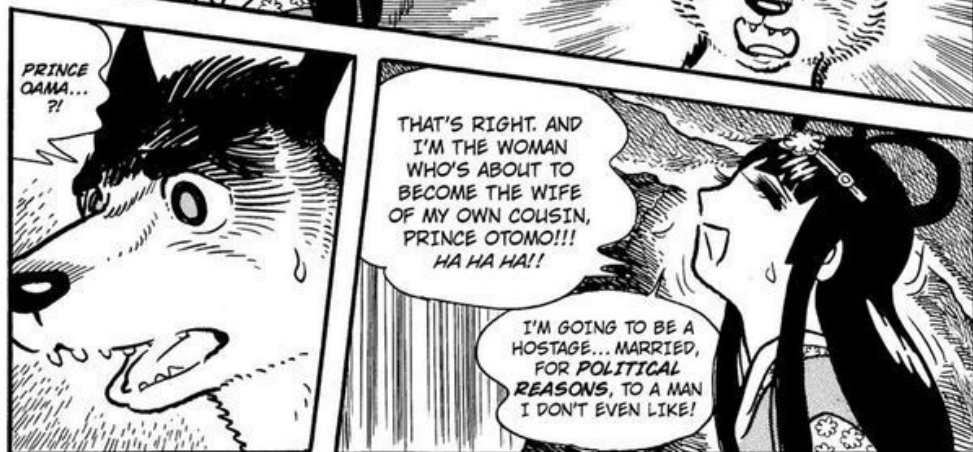
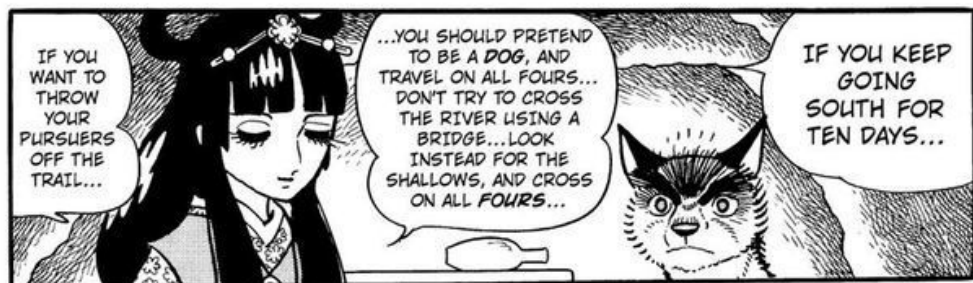


LISTEN TO ME, INUGAMI...  
THERE ARE SPIES EVERY FOOT OF  
THE WAY FROM HERE IN OMI ALL THE  
WAY TO ASUKA, AND WHEREVER YOU  
GO THEY'LL SEE YOU AND REPORT  
YOU TO THE AUTHORITIES...



THERE'S A  
BRIDGE OVER  
THE UJI RIVER  
FURTHER  
UPSTREAM. THE  
BRIDGE MASTER  
THERE NORMALLY  
WON'T LET  
ANYONE  
SUSPICIOUS  
CROSS...





AND I'M ONLY  
FOURTEEN  
YEARS OLD!!  
CAN YOU  
BELIEVE IT?

I WANTED TO  
SPEND MY  
YOUTH  
HAVING FUN,  
BEING  
FREE!!

THEY TOOK ME HOSTAGE  
AND FORCED ME TO  
MARRY, THINKING IT  
WOULD PREVENT MY  
FATHER FROM GETTING  
INVOLVED WITH EVENTS  
AT THE CAPITAL. THIS IS  
WHY I PRETEND TO BE  
A STUPID YOUNG GIRL,  
AND TRY NOT TO LET  
MY HUSBAND GET  
NEAR ME...

WHATEVER  
HAPPENS, I  
DON'T WANT TO  
BEAR HIS  
CHILD...

...

YOUR NAME'S  
INUGAMI,  
RIGHT? DO  
YOU HAVE  
SOMEONE  
YOU  
LOVE?

TELL ME  
THE TRUTH...  
IN THE  
LANGUAGE  
YOU USE, I  
SENSE  
SOMETHING  
SOPHISTI-  
CATED,  
EVEN  
ELEGANT  
...

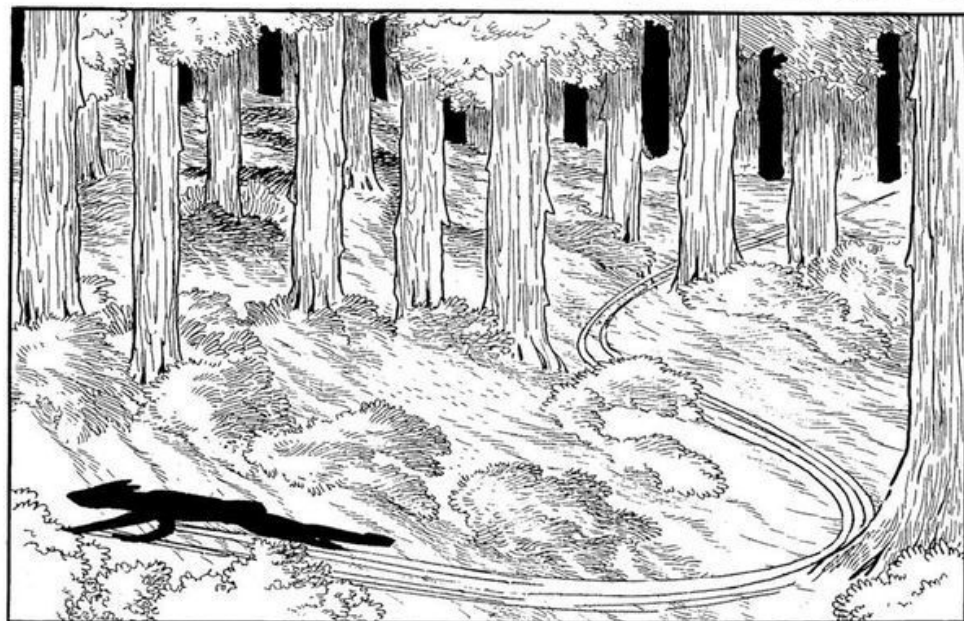
NOW'S  
NOT THE  
TIME TO  
THINK OF  
THE PAST...

NO! I WANT TO  
HEAR ABOUT  
YOU! PLEASE,  
TELL ME ABOUT  
YOURSELF!

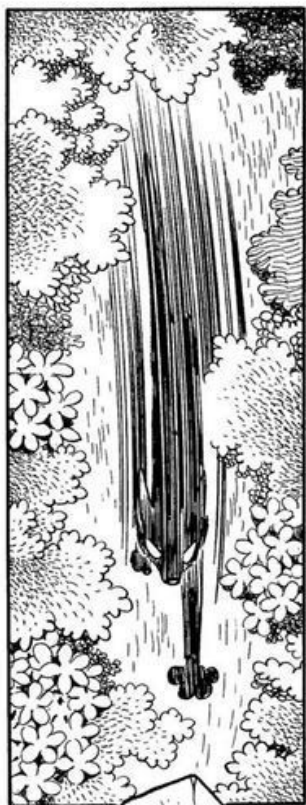
I CAME FROM  
BAEKJE, ON  
THE KOREAN  
PENINSULA.  
I BELONG TO  
THE CLAN  
OF BUYEO  
PLUNG, BUT  
WE WERE  
DEFEATED  
IN BATTLE  
AND I HAD  
TO ESCAPE  
HERE, TO  
YAMATO.



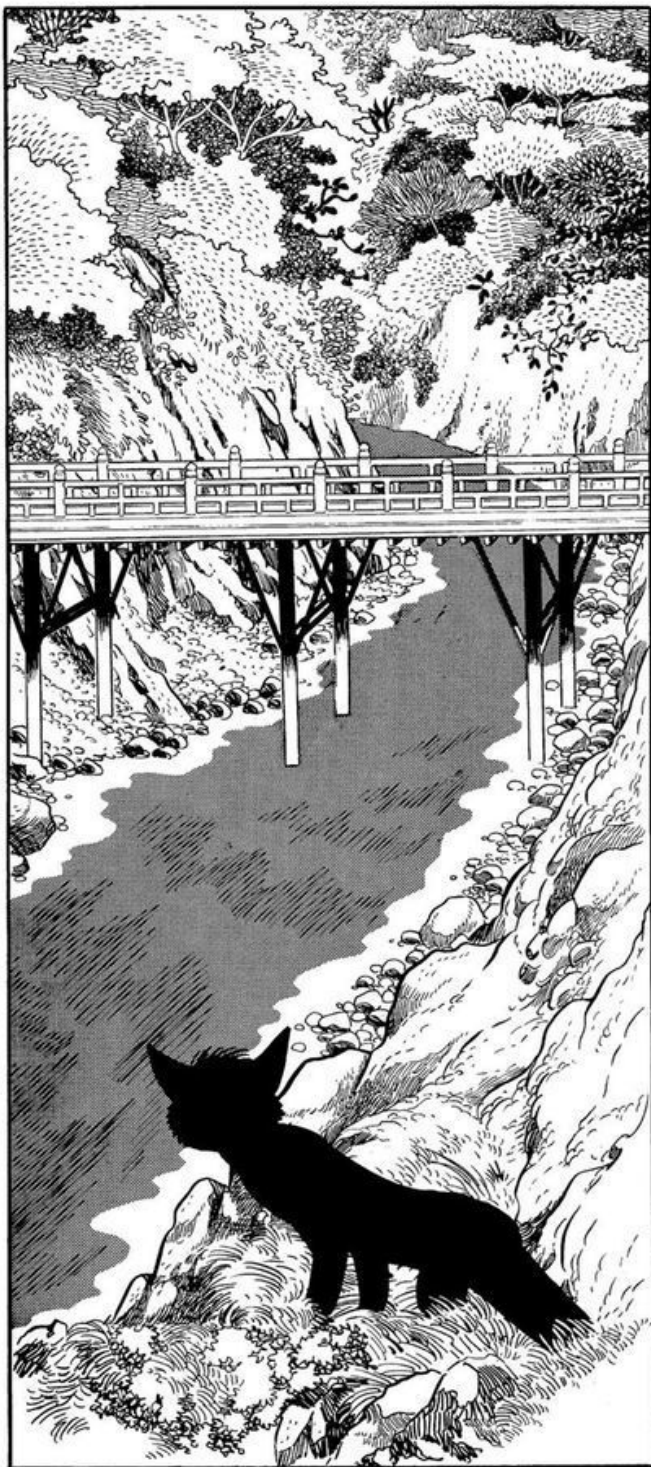


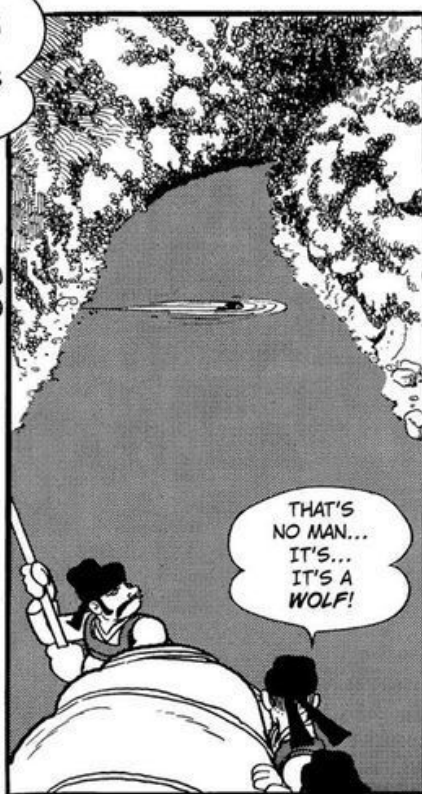
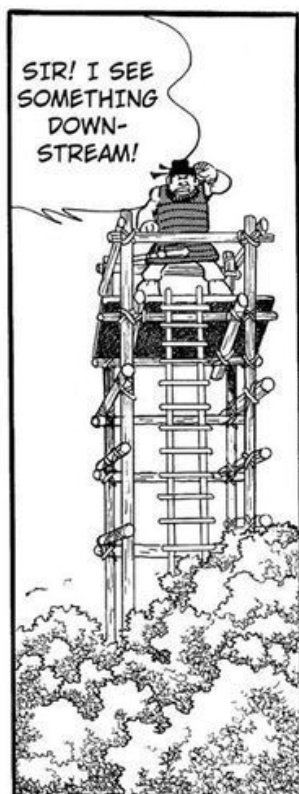




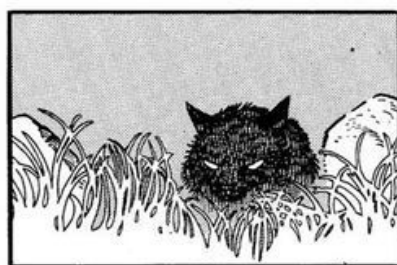
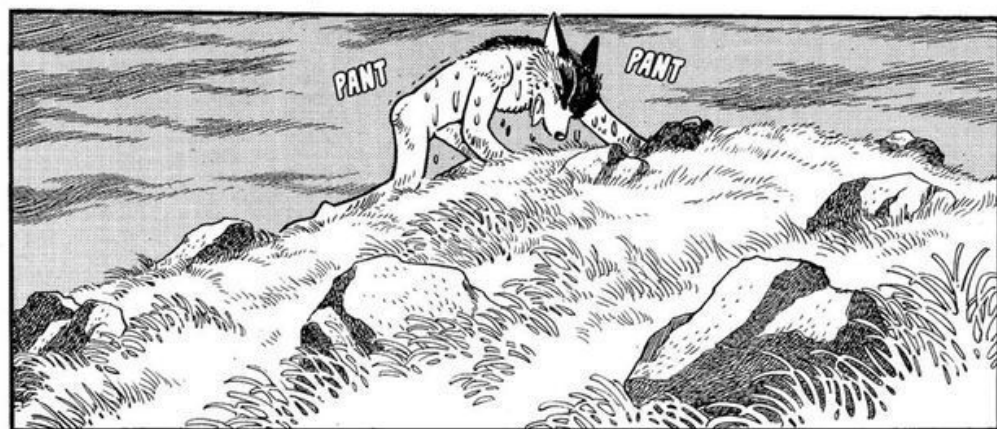


SIGN: UJI BRIDGE

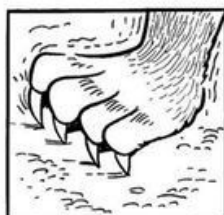




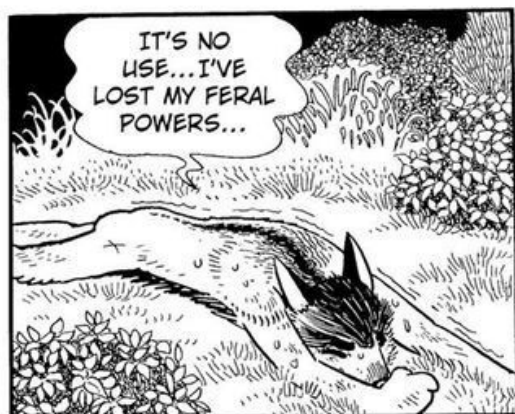


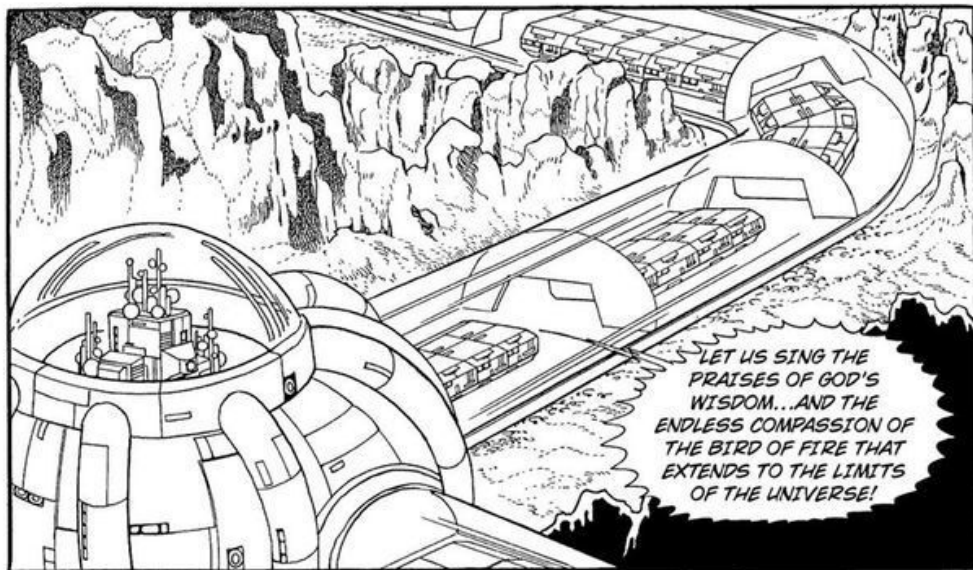
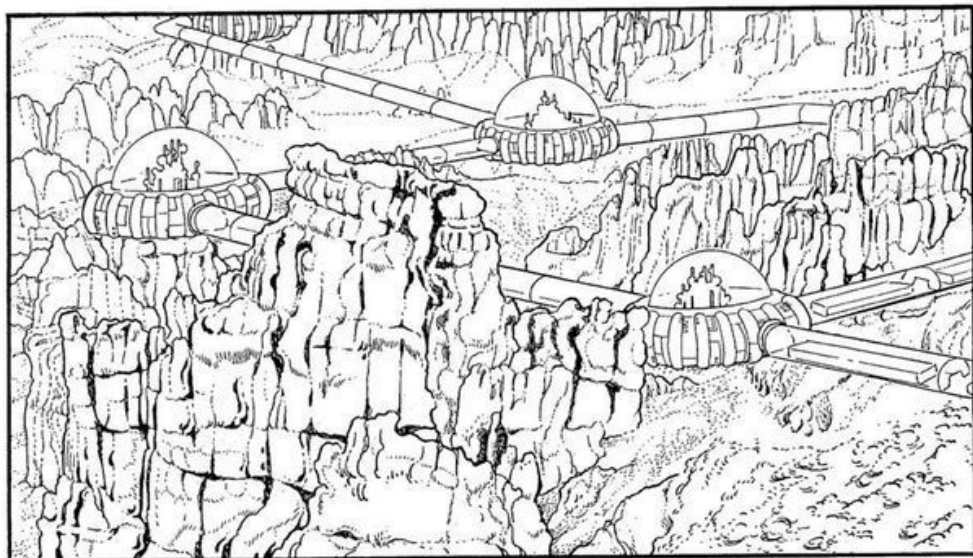
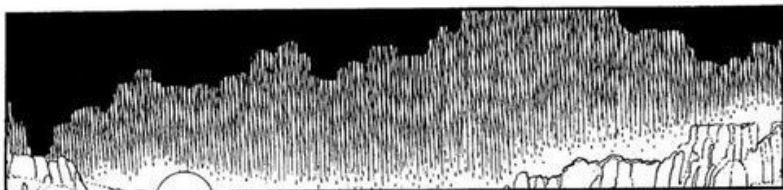


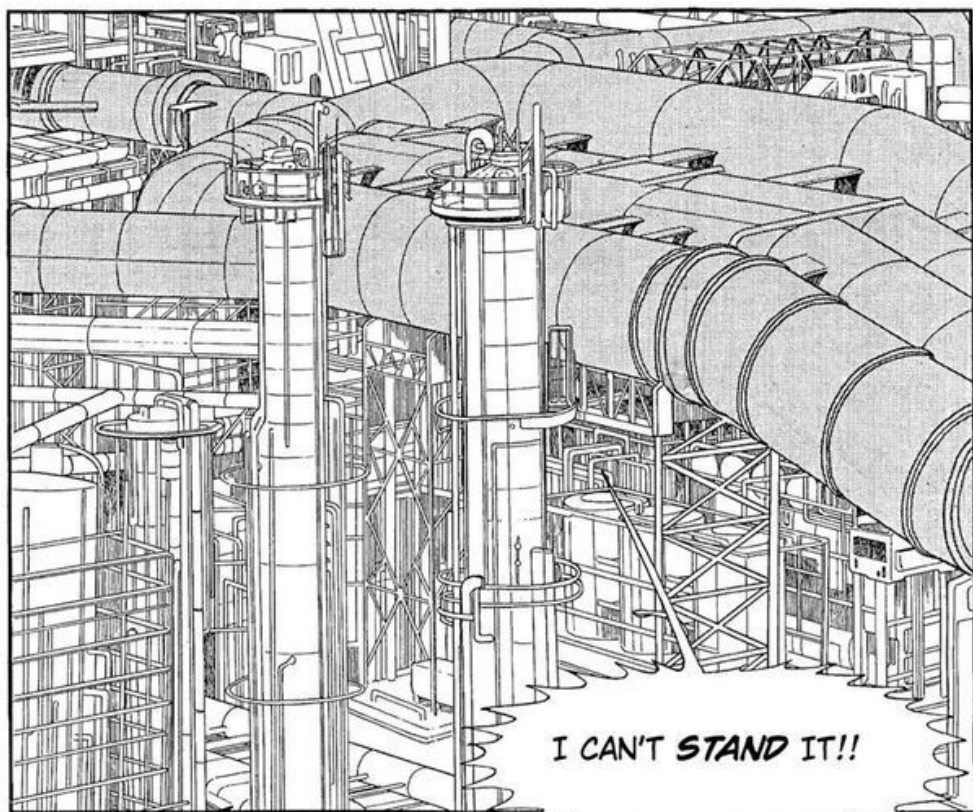




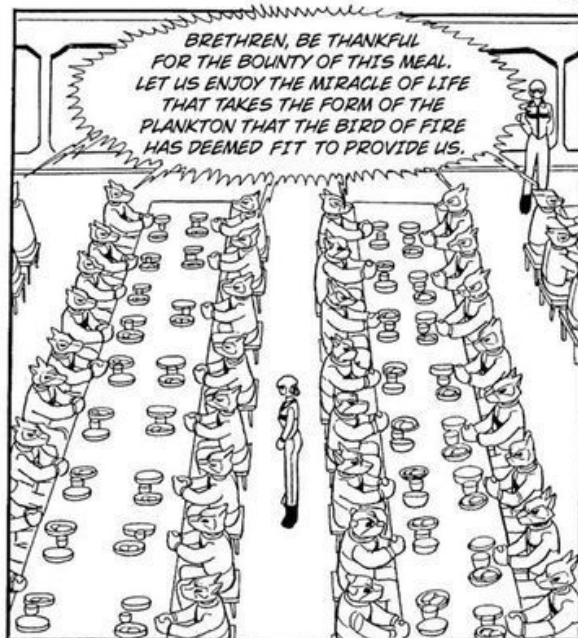






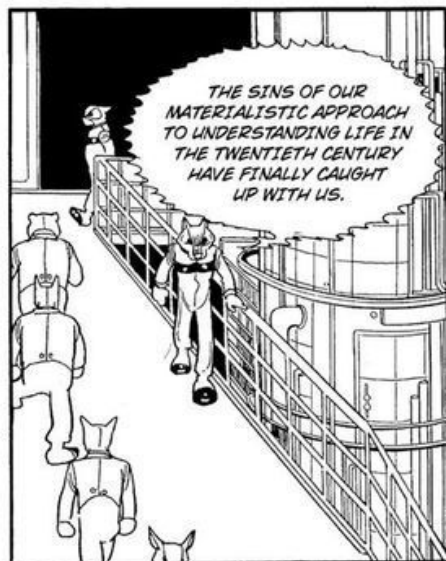
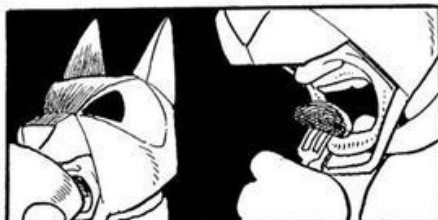
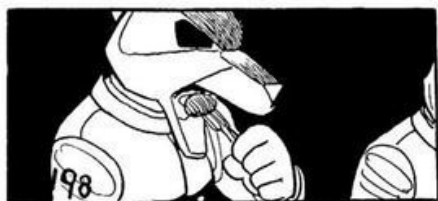


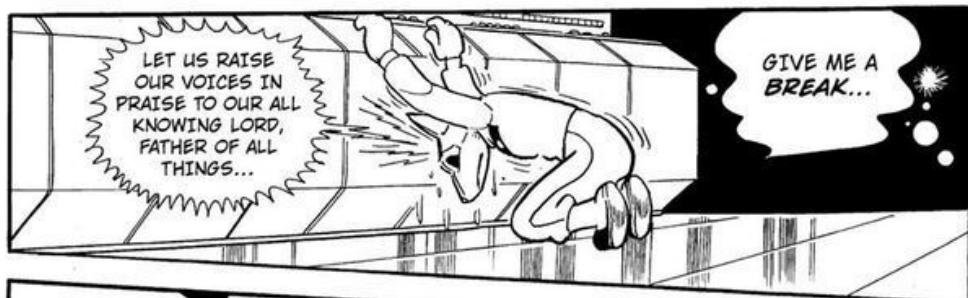
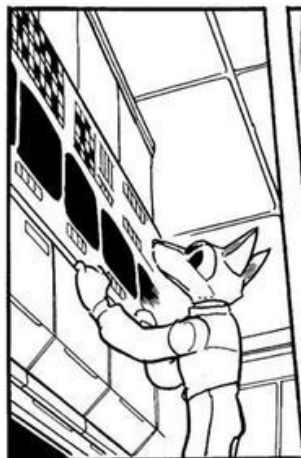
I CAN'T **STAND** IT!!



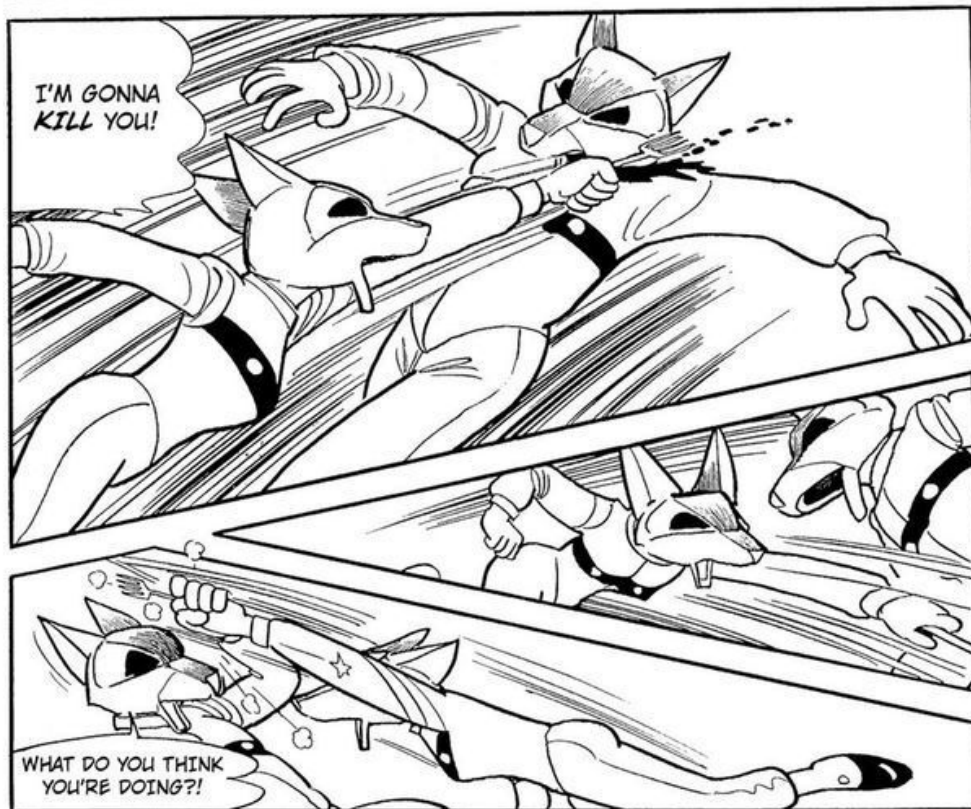
BRETHREN, BE THANKFUL  
FOR THE BOUNTY OF THIS MEAL.  
LET US ENJOY THE MIRACLE OF LIFE  
THAT TAKES THE FORM OF THE  
PLANKTON THAT THE BIRD OF FIRE  
HAS DEEMED FIT TO PROVIDE US.

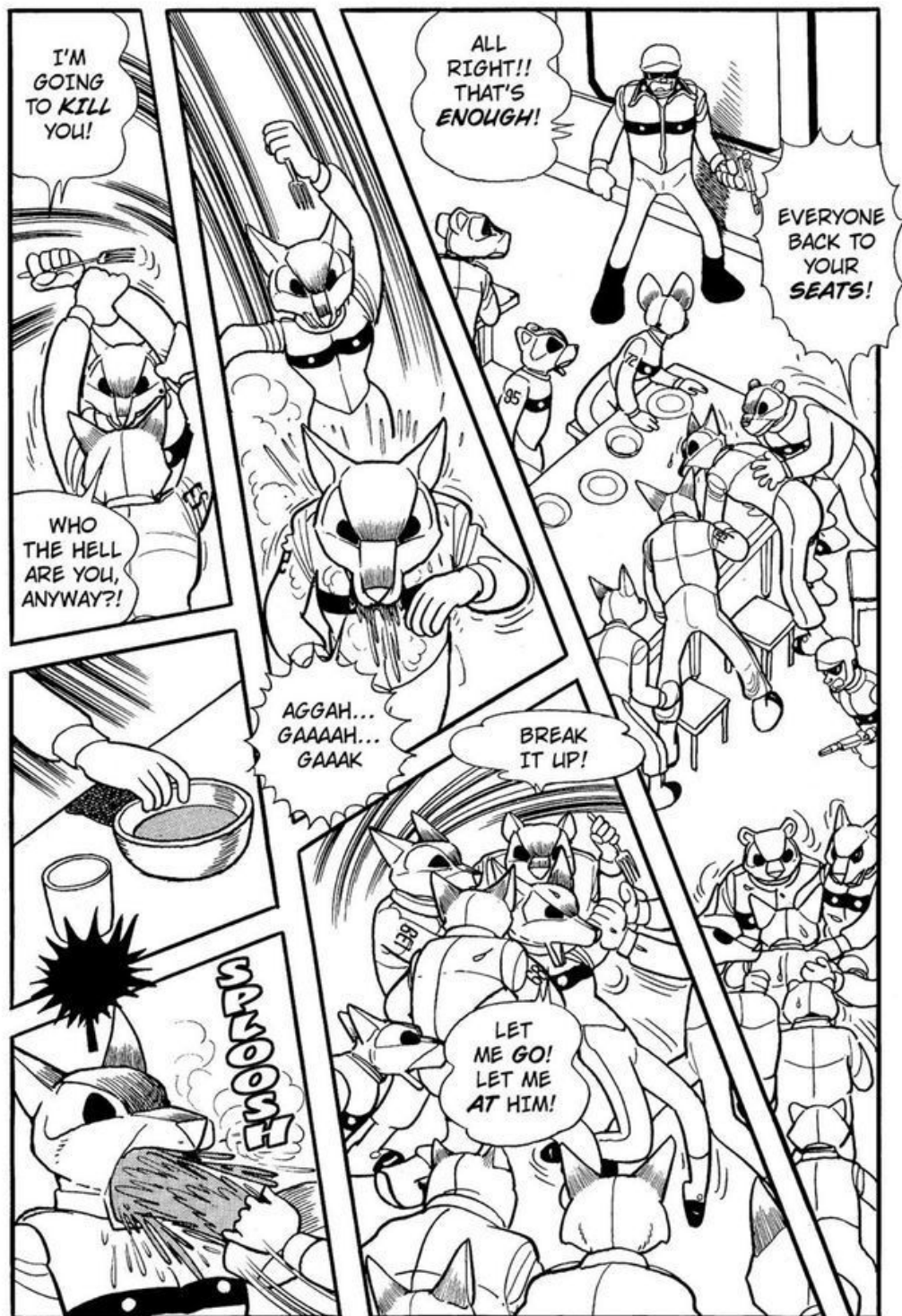


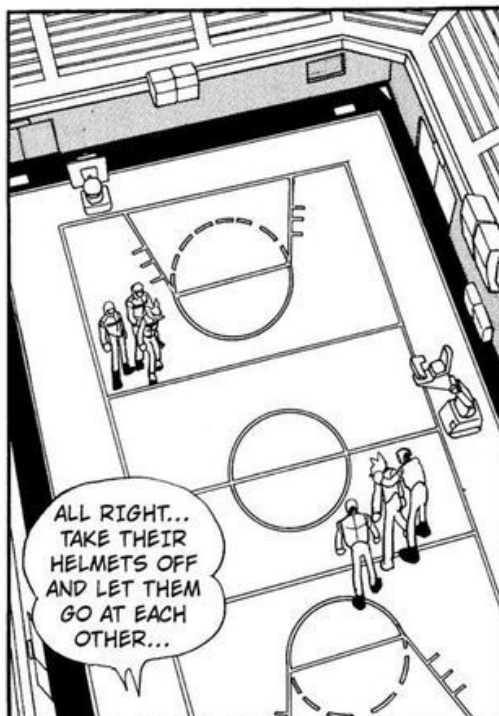
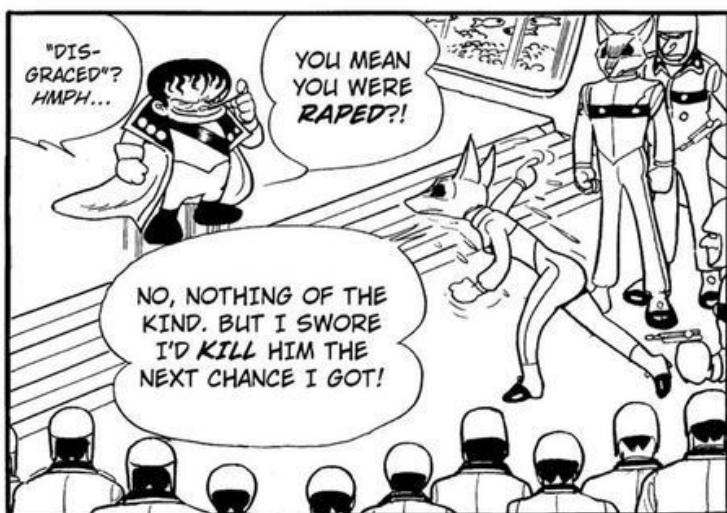


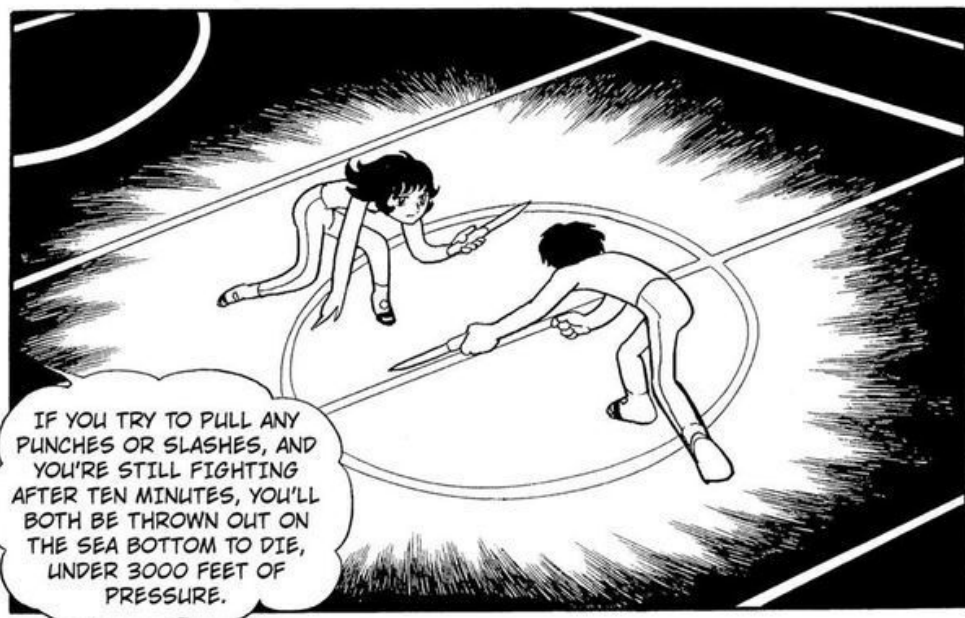
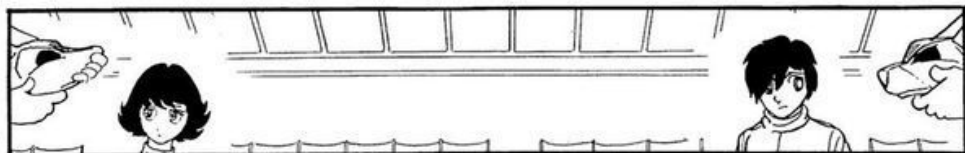


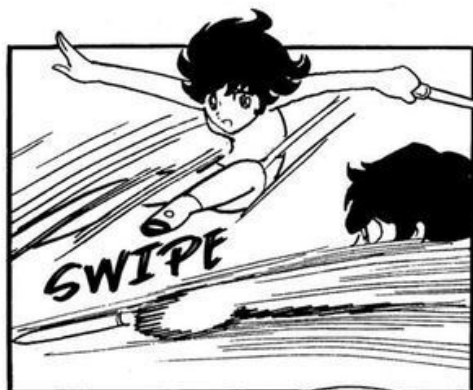




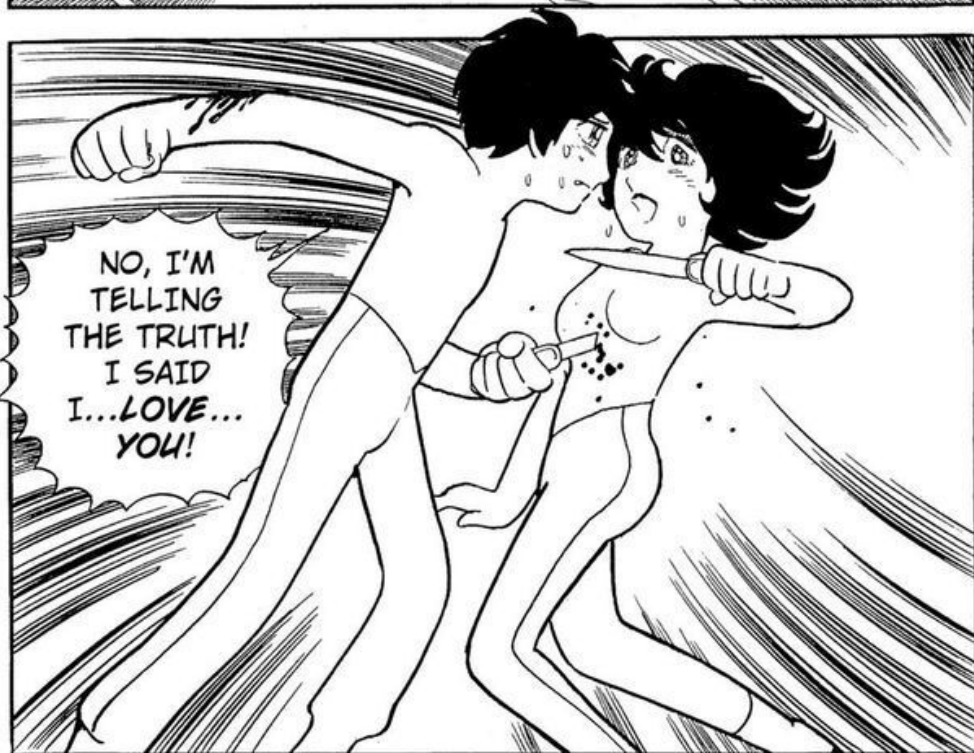
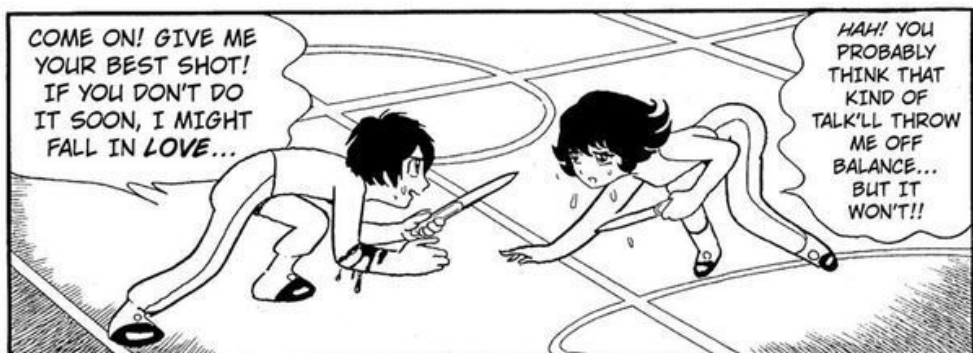


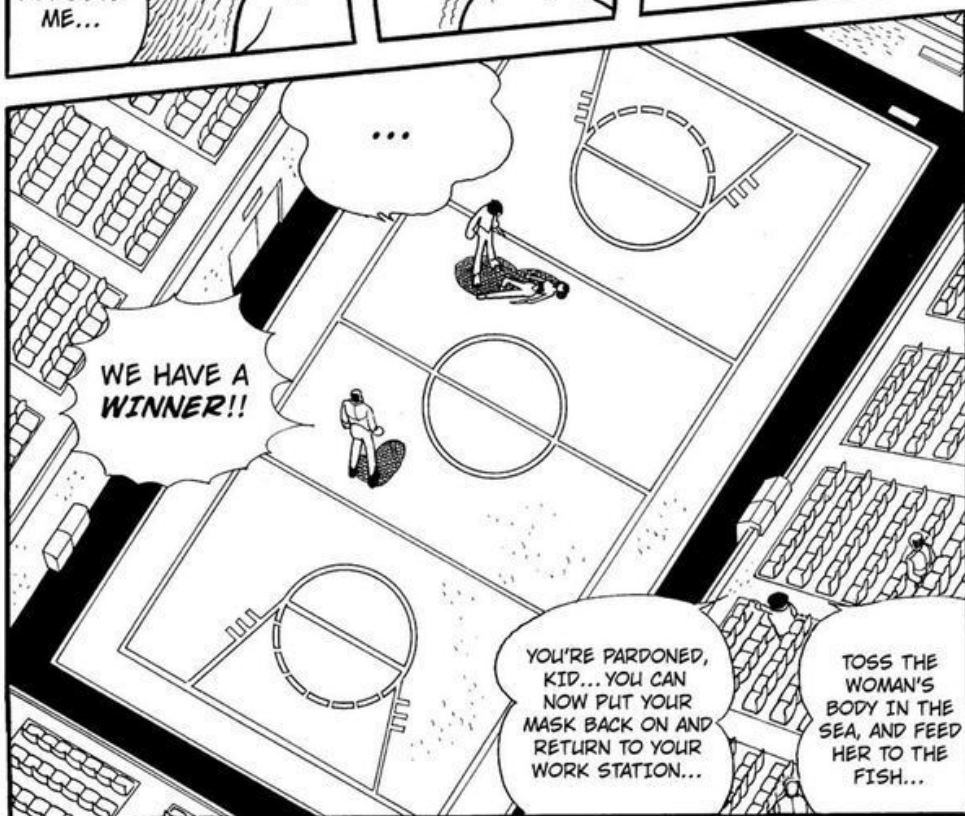
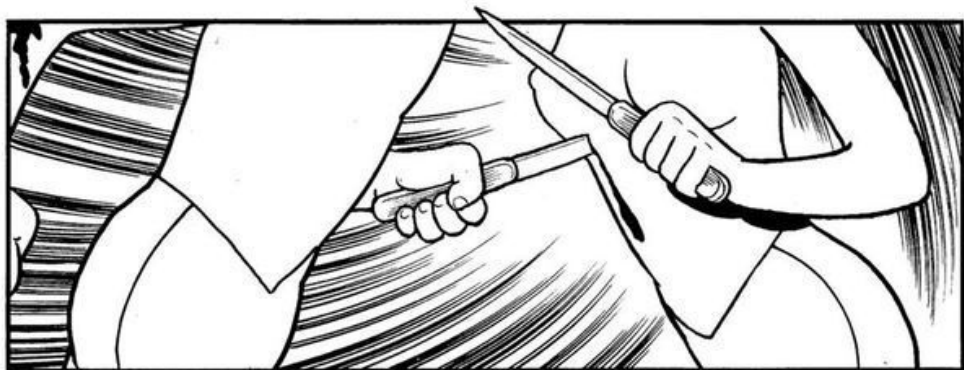


















I'VE BEEN  
AROUND A LOT  
OF GIRLS  
BEFORE...

BUT...I FELT  
SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT  
IN YOU...

I FEEL  
SOMETHING  
FOR YOU!

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON,  
DAMMIT!!



IF IT'S  
ANY  
CONSO-  
LATION,  
MR.  
ASSASSIN,  
I FEEL  
THE  
SAME...

...I'VE NEVER  
BEEN ABLE TO  
FALL IN LOVE  
BEFORE... BUT I  
FELT AS THOUGH  
I COULD WITH  
YOU... IT'S  
SOMETHING  
EVERY WOMAN  
WANTS,  
AT LEAST  
ONCE...



IT'S SO  
STRANGE...  
THE  
MOMENT I  
SAW YOU  
WITHOUT  
YOUR  
MASK...

...I FELT  
SOMETHING...  
AND I  
WONDERED  
IF THIS  
WAS WHAT  
FALLING IN  
LOVE IS ALL  
ABOUT...



WHAT A  
PERVERSE  
WAY FOR US  
TO MEET,  
HUH?

MAYBE IT  
WAS OUR  
FATE...



FATE  
?

YES... A  
SENSE THAT...  
LONG AGO...  
THIS WAS ALL  
DESTINED TO  
HAPPEN.



YOU KNOW...  
IT'S FUNNY, BUT  
I FEEL AS  
THOUGH I MET  
YOU BEFORE...  
ONCE... LONG,  
LONG AGO,  
BEFORE I WAS  
EVEN BORN...

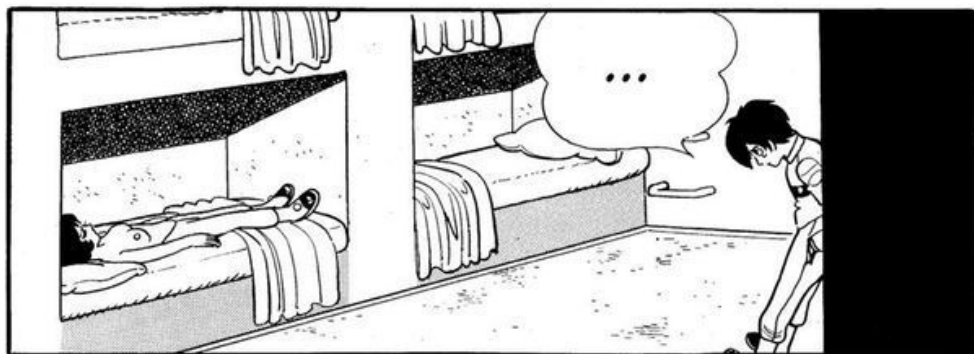


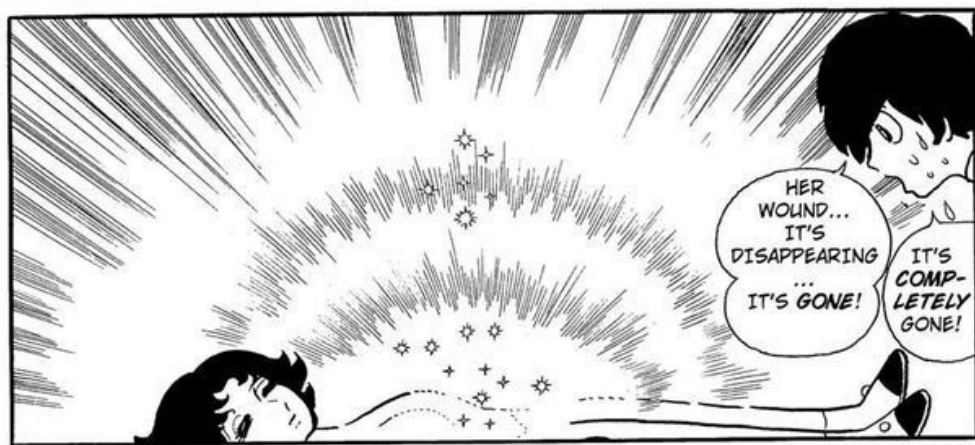
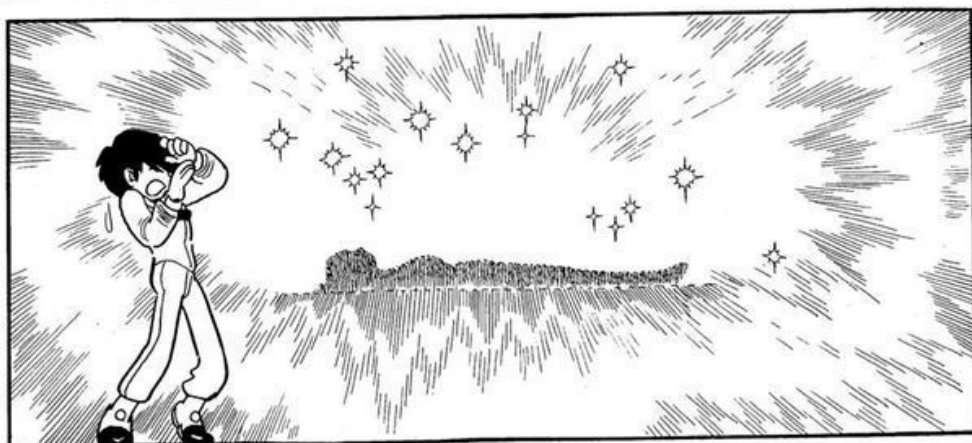
I...  
FEEL  
THE  
SAME  
WAY...

SOMETIME  
BEFORE...  
BUT I CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
WHEN... OR  
WHERE...











I...I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT THAT...

NO! YOU  
**MUST** HAVE  
DRUNK IT!  
YOU'VE BEEN  
GIVEN  
POWER OVER  
DEATH!

B...BUT I  
DON'T RECALL  
DRINKING ANY  
BLOOD... I'VE  
NEVER EVEN  
HEARD OF IT...

ALL RIGHT...  
WHATEVER IT WAS...  
LET'S MAKE THE MOST  
OF IT. FOLLOW MY LEAD!  
IF THINGS GO RIGHT,  
WE MIGHT MAKE IT  
BACK TO THE SURFACE!

LOOK!  
**SHE'S ALIVE!!**

SHE'S  
STANDIN'  
UP!!

AND  
SHE'S  
NOT  
BLEEDING!

JUST  
WHAT'S  
GOIN'  
ON  
HERE?!

THAT'S RIGHT! SHE'S  
**NOT** DEAD, YOU IDIOTS!  
IN FACT, SHE CAN'T DIE!

AND YOU  
KNOW **WHY**?  
YOU REALLY  
WANT TO KNOW?  
IT'S BECAUSE  
SHE DRANK  
SOMETHING  
BEFORE SHE  
CAME HERE.

SHE  
DRANK  
THE  
**FIRE  
BIRD'S  
BLOOD!**



YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, RIGHT? YOU KNOW THAT THE PHOENIX'S BLOOD CAN MAKE PEOPLE IMMORTAL, RIGHT?!

WELL, SHE KNOWS WHERE THE BIRD'S BLOOD IS! IT'S UP ON THE SURFACE... AND THERE'S STILL LOTS MORE THERE.



WELL, DON'T YOU MEN WANT TO HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE, TOO?

YOU REALLY KNOW THAT? FOR SURE?



I DO... AND THERE'S NO REASON WHY THE LIGHT PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE IT ALL FOR THEMSELVES!

THIS WOMAN WILL SHOW US WHERE IT IS! HOW ABOUT IT? LET'S GO TO THE SURFACE!

THERE'S NO FIRE BIRD BLOOD HERE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

WELL?! WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

YEAH! I WANT SOME OF THAT BLOOD!

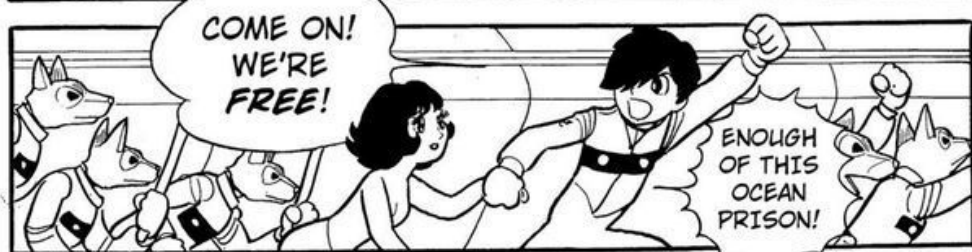
YEAH, ME TOO!

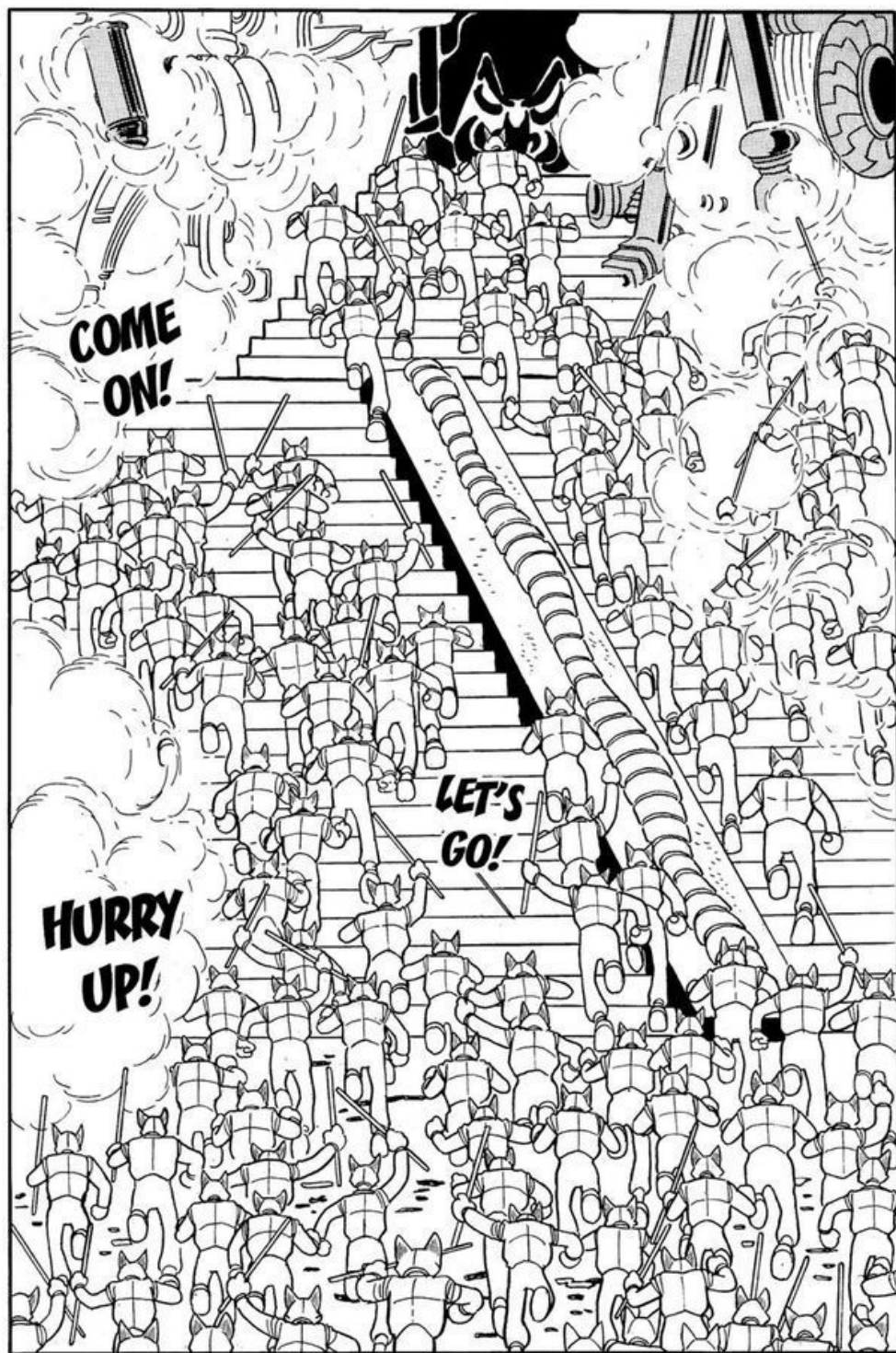
SO FAR SO GOOD... WE'VE STARTED A RIOT!

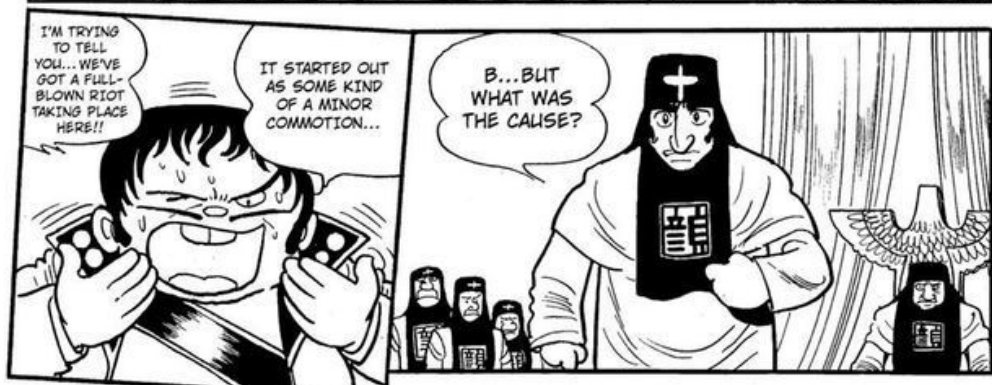
TO THE SURFACE!

TO THE SURFACE!

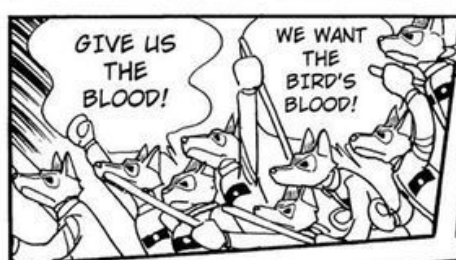
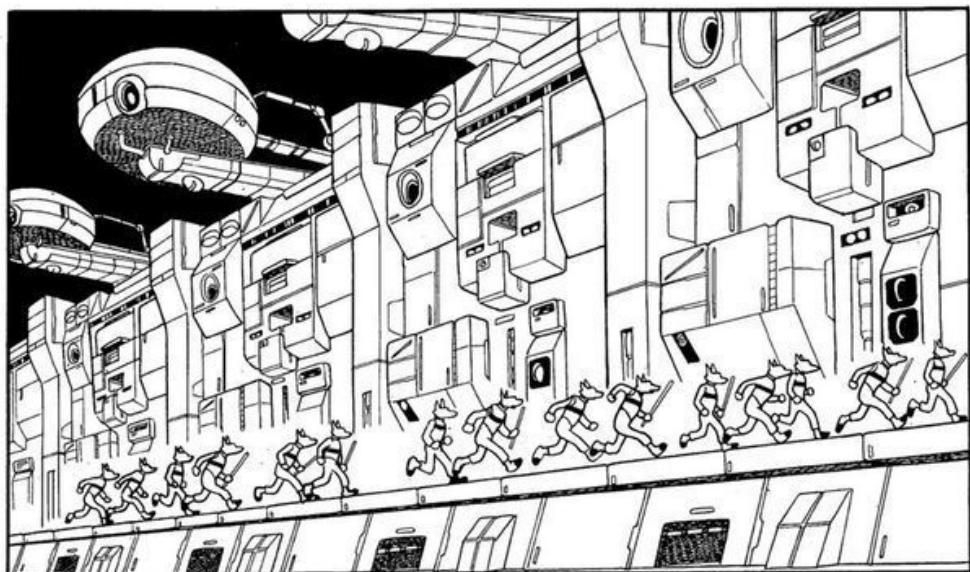


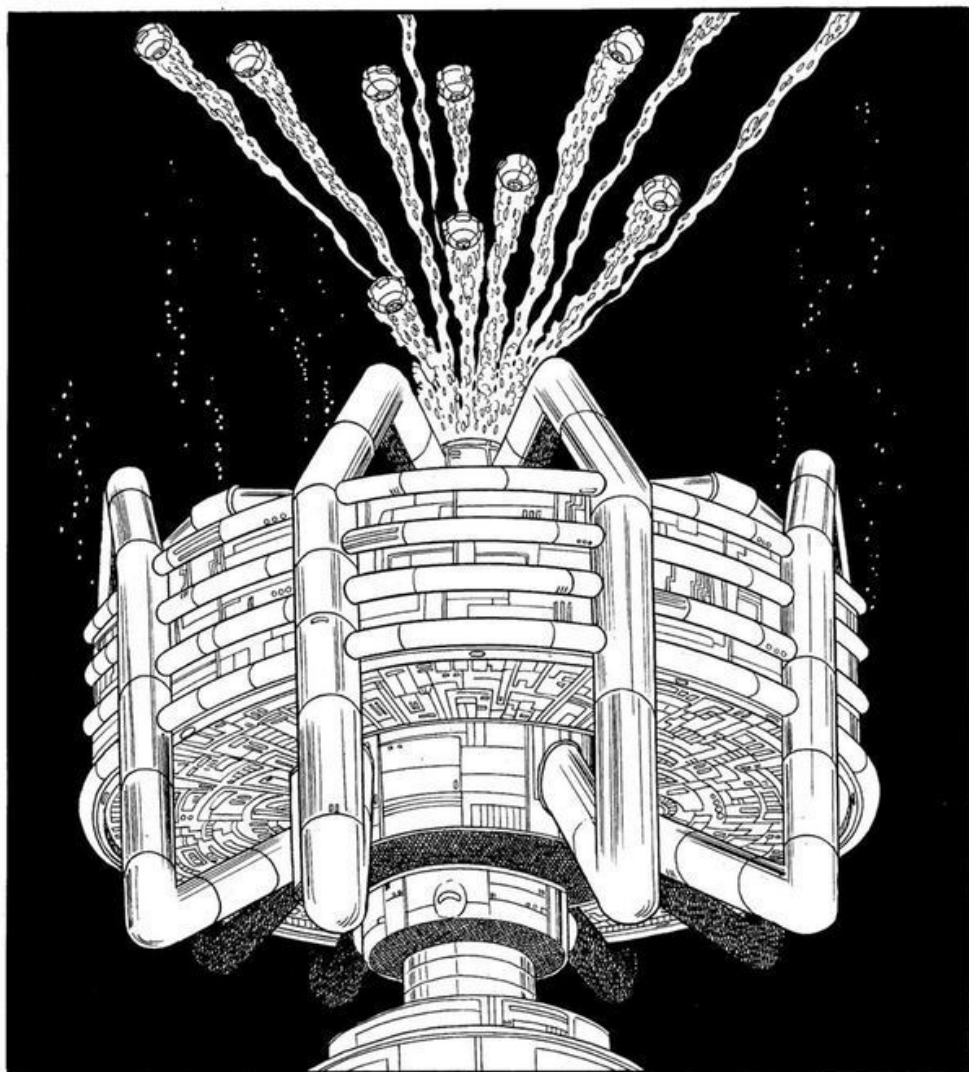
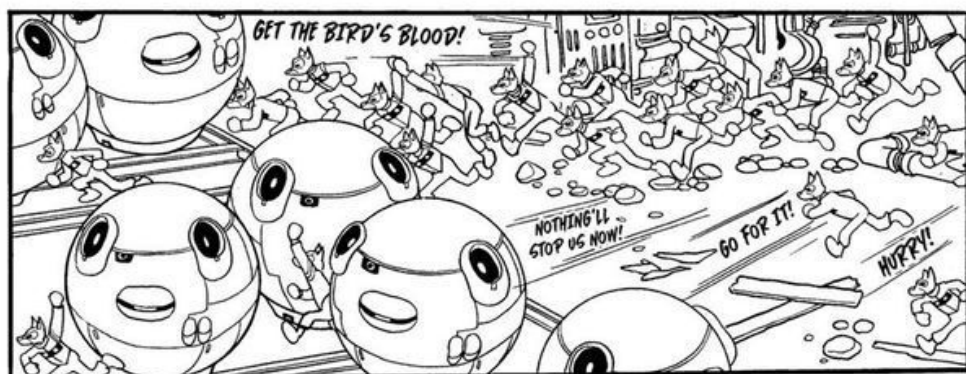


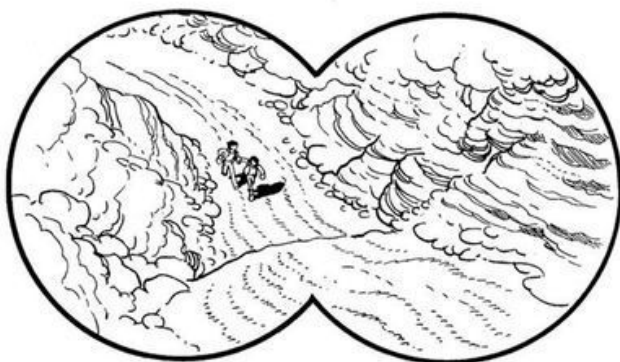
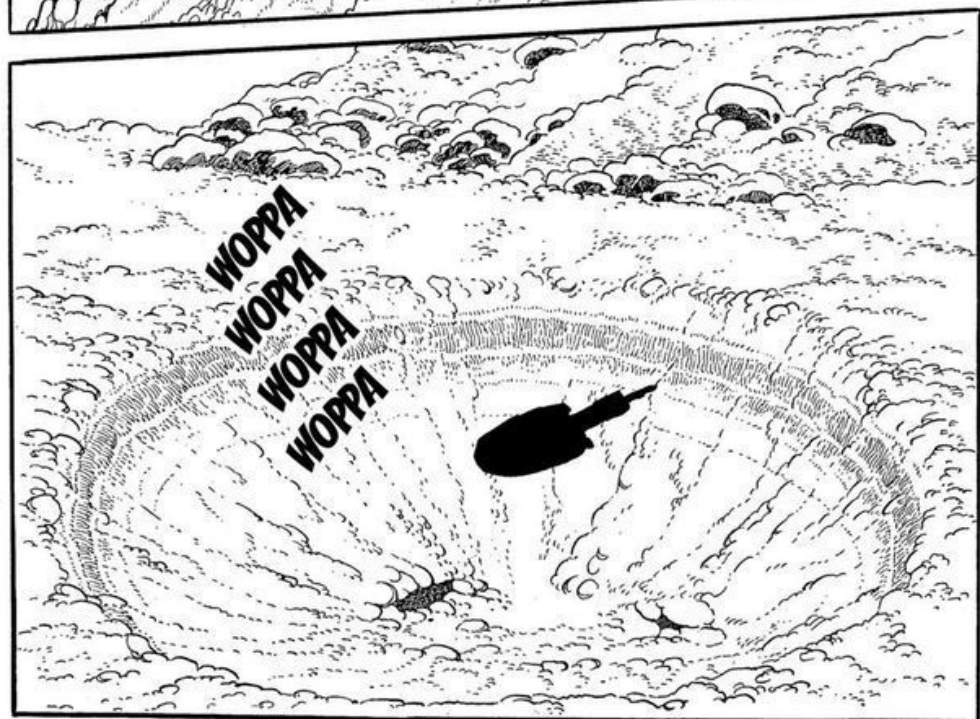
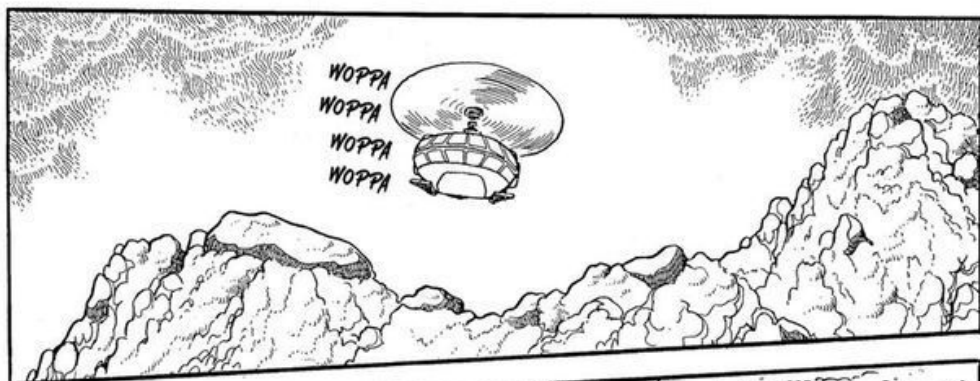














THERE  
THEY  
ARE...



THAT'S  
THE  
PAIR  
WE'RE  
LOOKIN'  
FOR.



WOPPA  
WOPPA  
WOPPA

UH, OH...  
WE'VE BEEN  
SPOTTED!



THAT'S  
LIKAON  
...



WHO'S  
LIKAON  
?

HE'S A  
PROFESSIONAL  
ASSASSIN WHO  
WORKS DIRECTLY  
FOR THE CHURCH  
HEADQUARTERS!  
THEY MUST'VE  
ORDERED HIM TO  
AMBUSH US!



WELL, I DON'T  
KNOW ABOUT  
YOU, BUT I  
DIDN'T COME  
ALL THIS WAY  
JUST TO END  
UP GETTING  
KILLED!







AND I  
LOVE  
YOU,  
TOO,  
SUGURU  
...

THEN COME  
WITH ME!  
THE  
ENTRANCE  
TO THE  
SHADOW  
WORLD IS  
JUST OVER  
THERE!

IF WE STAY  
TOGETHER,  
WE'LL  
**BOTH BE  
KILLED...**

**BLAM**  
**BLAM**  
**BLAM**

COME  
ON OUT,  
YOU  
LOVE-  
BIRDS!

I'LL SEND YOU  
ON A NICE  
*HONEYMOON.*  
TO ANOTHER  
WORLD...**HAH!**

IF WE BOTH RUN  
IN DIFFERENT  
DIRECTIONS,  
WE MIGHT  
MAKE IT...

LIKAON'LL  
AIM FOR ME  
FIRST, AND  
THAT'LL  
GIVE YOU A  
CHANCE...

B...BUT  
THAT'S  
**SUICIDE!**

DON'T  
WORRY,  
SILLY...I'M  
NOT GOING  
TO DIE...

THAT WAY  
WE'LL BE ABLE TO  
MEET AGAIN  
SOMEWHERE...

B...BUT  
YOU CAN'T  
GO!

Y...  
YOU  
CAN'T,  
YODO-  
MI!

LOOK, SUGURU...  
HERE'S HOW I  
SEE THINGS...

I FEEL LIKE  
WE WERE  
CONNECTED  
SOMEHOW,  
IN THE PAST...  
THAT  
SOMETHING  
BROUGHT US  
TOGETHER...

AND WE  
WERE  
DESTINED  
TO MEET  
AGAIN...

